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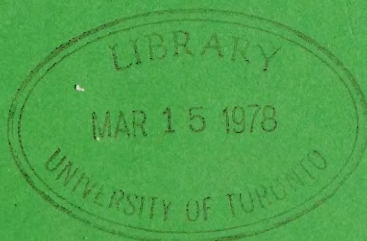
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ROYAL COMMISSION

ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

Hearing held at Sandy Lake, Ontario,  
on January 11th, 1978, on commencing  
at 9:00 a.m.



Thomas F. Conlin,  
Official Reporter.







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- - -

BEFORE:

Mr. Justice E.P. Hartt - Commissioner.

APPEARANCES:

G. Morley, Esq.

- Counsel to the Commission.





---On commencing at 9:00 a.m.

BILL MAMAKEESIC: Maybe we could start our hearing now. Maybe I could ask our Elder, Tom Fiddler, to start things off with a morning prayer again.

10 (Opening prayer)

20 BILL MAMAKEESIC: This morning we are having a group or delegation from Sandy Lake. There are some groups that are representing various projects at Sandy Lake and we are going to ask the drug and alcohol program from Sandy Lake to come and make their presentation. We are going to have Mr. Abel Rae and Joe Meekis from the drug and alcohol program here in Sandy Lake to make their presentation. Abel is going to be making this presentation, in the Indian language first and then Joe is going to read the submission. Abel, we will help you to make your presentations.

30 When we first started three years ago we worked on a voluntary basis and never got paid for one year. After a year we got help from the white people, we got funded by the government. We were overworked because there were so few of us that worked in this area, and there was a lot of work, and there is a lot of work. The area covered Pikangikum, Deer Lake and North Spirit, Round Lake, Poplar Hill and Sandy Lake. We asked some of our workers, one to work in Pikangikum, also we asked for one worker in Deer Lake because there are enough people in Deer Lake for one worker to be working there and we are hoping we can get all the workers in the communities where they are needed. We also asked for more workers here in Sandy and these people call us about glue sniffers and we sometimes look at the reports and we wonder what it is doing,

40





the young people glue sniff, they cover their mouths with a plastic bag and they inhale the gas fumes. If we can make this presentation with some of the results of what we are trying to do, like we talked to teachers about sniffing and we are beginning to see some results. That is all I am going to say at this time.

Abel Rae is a director of the Sandy Lake council and drug and alcohol program.

JOE MEEKIS

"Mr. Commissioner, my name is Joe Meekis and I work with the Sandy Lake Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, in Sandy Lake. I have been active in this area for four years now.

"We know that alcohol has been with man since he knew how to think. We also know that alcohol was introduced to the native people of America a short 300 years ago. We know that the people who introduced it to us didn't know how to control it themselves even though they have had it for centuries. There have been alcoholics in all societies. The white people have been looking for means and ways to combat this problem through A.A., Al-lon, therapy sessions, etc. It was only a few years ago that they realized that alcoholism is a disease like T.B. or a common cold. Alcoholism affects all people whether it be lawyers, ministers, doctors, white people, black, brown, yellow or red,





"male or female, or even children.

"My main concern at this time is what alcoholism does to my people. Alcoholism has robbed my people of their pride, culture, heritage and their way of life. Down south all this is evident in the streets of the towns and cities. Just look at Red Lake, Sioux Lookout and Pickle Lake.

"One of our main concerns is that many of our young people attending high schools in the southern urban areas are returning home because they are unable to cope with the cultural change as well as with homesickness which occurs. The result of this is that we have many young people in our village throughout the year who are unemployed and not involved in any meaningful activity; eventually some get caught up in the alcohol and drug abuse problems that exist in our community. Another problem arising recently is that some of our young people attending school in Sandy Lake are becoming influenced by those young people who have returned from the south after dropping out of school. These dropouts don't know how to cope with life in the north; some don't even know how to build a fire. These young people are caught between the white man's ways and the Indian ways. They don't have enough training to cope in a white society but because



"they were in school, they were not trained at home in the native traditional life. So they end up frustrated, and take their frustrations out on their parents by getting drunk, taking pills or just getting into mischief.

"The village of Sandy Lake, at one time, had an alcoholism worker hired through the Ontario Native Alcohol and Drug Program. However, the program ceased through lack of funding. Various concerned members of the community have tried to initiate meetings and/or committees to deal with our alcohol and drug problems. However, due to lack of expertise, these committees were unable to generate community involvement and died after a short period of time or just became inactive. These efforts on the part of the Sandy Lake people show that we are concerned and that we want to do something positive.

"The government provides services to the people of Ontario to help them seek solutions towards rehabilitation of alcohol and drug abusers. Because we are so far north, particularly from urban areas, our people received no services unless we initiate the request ourselves. When the Ontario Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program was existent, we were able to get films, pamphlets, etc. However, when the program ceased, all other Government supportive services ceased





10 "because the Government did not carry on  
any further efforts with us in conjunction  
with the Ontario Native Alcohol and Drug  
Abuse Program to continue to provide the  
support we need. We feel, therefore, that  
only when we have a viable existing Indian  
organization, which is genuinely concerned  
in giving us ongoing support and aid, will  
we be able to seek answers to our problems  
in the area of alcohol and drug abuse. We  
will recognize that the primary action in  
dealing with the problem within our  
20 community must remain with our community  
members.

30 "About three years ago, with the help of  
Treaty 9, a group of concerned people got  
together and formed a group called The Sandy  
Lake Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.  
This was a strictly voluntary group whose  
main concern was to make us aware of the  
fact that there was an alcohol problem in  
the community. After about one year with  
the help of Treaty 9 Council on Alcohol and  
Drug Abuse Program, they approached the  
40 Canadian Government for some money. They  
were told that there was a joint pilot  
project by Indian Affairs and National  
Health and Welfare where they made money  
available for programs such as us, all  
over Canada. The Treaty No.9 staff wrote





"up a proposal to National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program for the Sandy Lake C.A.D.A.

10 "After a few months it was funded. The board of directors of Sandy Lake Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse hired: one director, two field counsellors and a secretary. With the help of Treaty No.9 they set goals and objectives of the project which are as follows:

20 "1. To educate our community to a level of understanding of the efforts and results of alcohol and drug abuse.

"2. To seek alternatives to the above problems: the problems related to alcohol and drug abuse.

30 "3. To begin to help our people find a solution to the problems related to alcohol and drug abuse.

"4. To develop a local rehabilitative effort in the treatment of our alcohol and drug abusers.

40 "5. To regain and maintain our pride and dignity as Indian people.

"In order to reach these goals, our board and staff will involve the Sandy Lake community by:

"a) helping our people to understand and



" know about alcoholism and drug abuse in our educational sessions, using the school system, community sessions, family sessions, and V.T.R.

"b) developing a preventative program for our children, emphasizing pride as Indian people.

"c) seeking out local leadership in the field as we can help other Native people.

"d) providing local counsellors to our people and families who experience alcohol problems, and particularly major emphasis on gas-sniffing.

"e) beginning the plan of action in the development of a local rehabilitation centre for our people.

"They also set a training cycle which will last ten days a session for four sessions a year. The training sessions will consist of program management, counselling techniques and other necessary skills in order to run a smoothly working program.

"There were problems in financial management and internal problems in the first year of operation. People can only really understand the program objectives; the funding agency could not understand our native problems. We feel that we have a unique problem in relation to alcohol and drug abuse. The white society tend to put a label on native





"people when they see them drinking or drunk. They figure that all natives are drunken Indians.

"When we look at the developed areas below the 50th parallel, we can see the problems the natives are having with alcohol. So what will happen if the Reed Paper project or Polar Gas Pipeline, or Hydro dams come into our area. We know that there will be jobs for the white people, who will in turn bring their liquor with them. They will no doubt give the natives a 'shot'. Their 'shot' will in turn cause family problems; beating, mischief, and the community as a whole will suffer. The uniqueness of alcohol is that if one uses it, everybody suffers directly or indirectly.

"What I am saying, Mr. Commissioner, is that we don't want anybody to die here because of alcohol. We have been lucky this far, and we have not had a fatal accident in direct relationship with alcohol. We are going to need all the help we can get in order to keep it that way."

Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much gentlemen.

---EXHIBIT NO.238:

Submission by the Sandy Lake Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, by Mr. Joe Meekis.





BILL MAMAKEESIC: I would now ask Mr. Eddie Fiddler and Donald Mamakeesic to make their presentation on behalf of the Kitiwin Communications Association.

EDDIE FIDDLER

10 "Mr. Commissioner:

"First of all, we from Kitwin Communications Association would like to welcome you and your staff to Sandy Lake and I hope you are enjoying your brief stay in our community.

20 "We now have our local radio station C.B.Q. which we got from C.B.C. C.B.Q. started in 1977. Since that time the people are aware of what is happening within the community. They also hear of interesting events and news or activities that are taking place in our community, not to mention our neighbourhood communities such as North Spirit Lake and Deer Lake.

30 "We from Kitiwin Communications give our local radio station access to our people, so we can broadcast in our own language which all Indians can understand, with the exception of teachers and nurses and other non-native persons. We can make our own programs in which the North people are there to be involved. Here are a few

40



"examples:

1. The Band Council discuss the Band affairs.
2. Nursing Station - they talk about medicine and diseases.
3. The O.P.P., our local police force, they discuss about law and order. We have questions on Open Line.
4. People within the community contact the radio station and sing their own songs.

These are a few programs I mentioned that our people are interested in, and also strongly involved directly to them, but most important is that if we have any sort of emergency, such as when there is a death in the family, forest fires in the summer time, or if a person is very sick. Those emergencies are very important to us because we have close family ties. Therefore, we can open our radio station any time we want. But C.B.C. only allows us to broadcast five hours per day from Monday to Friday. Then on Saturday we have only three hours per day. Then on Sunday 4½ hours. And the people in the community state that it is not enough.

Mr. Commissioner, now I would like to talk about another important thing which greatly concerns us. Our people in the future which will grow up in this wonderful community. I know my ancestors and your ancestors, Mr. Commissioner, signed this Treaty before we were born, but my ancestors have been living in North America since the beginning of time. We were living in peace





"until the white man came and spoiled our lands. We were free to go anywhere and hunt wherever we wanted to go. When the white man came to tell us that we cannot hunt no more because we were on Government land, and they told us that we were supposed to have a licence to kill the game. And our Great Spirit tells us to do these things. The Great Spirit gave us this land where we can hunt, and where we can live, and where we can raise our children.

Mr. Commissioner, we have lots of treaties since the day Columbus landed in North America. The treaties are supposed to be honoured by both sides, native and non-natives. But instead, non-natives turned around and broke every treaty we have in North America. Still today, white men come into our Reserve and are still making promises to us and telling us what to do with our land. What about the land you took away from us, like Toronto and Montreal and other big cities? All that beautiful land was ours and look at it now, it is dirty and polluted. That is why we don't want Reed Company or Polar Gas to come into our area, because they are going to destroy it if they come up here. We want our children and their children to have a decent place to live, and have the fresh air and all the trees they want.

Mr. Commissioner, we want you to go and tell our Federal Government in Ottawa that we do not





"want any Reed Company project coming into our area.

We want to protect our children. Our ancestors protected us a long time ago and we want to do the same thing for our future children.

Last of all, we strongly recommend to you, Mr. Commissioner, that you visit every community north of the 50th parallel no matter how small. We still want you to go there and also I would like to thank you for coming to Sandy Lake."  
Thank you.

---EXHIBIT NO.239:

Submission of the Kitiwin Communications Association, by Eddie Fiddler and Donald Mamakeesic.

MR, BILL MAMAKEESIC: At this time I will ask Richard Morris, who is Director for the Northern Native Education Council, to make a brief statement.

RICHARD MORRIS

MR. MORRIS: Thank you Bill. Mr. Commissioner, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Education Council. We had prepared a Brief to submit to this Commission; however, we were unable to contact all the Chiefs for approval for the submission, to give you an indication of some of the problems we have regarding communications and transportation in this area. I would like to inform you that we will be presenting a submission at the Moosonee hearings, hopefully, but first we have to contact all the Chiefs, and I would like to inform you that it is a new organization, an organiza-



tion that was re-organized when there was previously known as the District School Committee, and last year it was re-organized and we are just getting started now. I was just recently hired as the Operations Manager of the Education Council. The Education Council represents 18 recognized communities and their local school committees. The Board of Directors are the same chiefs that are the Board of Directors for the Western Council of Grand Council No. 9. That being the case, I would like to stress that we do support the position of Treaty No. 9 and the concerns that they have given on behalf of the people of Treaty No.9. We will be giving a full report on the development of education in this area and the problems that we had with education, and some solutions that we hope to see, that we hope education will take for the native people in the area. Again, I would like to thank you for giving me this brief time to inform you that we will be making a submission. Thank you very much.

THE COMMISSIONER: Could you tell me, Richard, do you deal with the Federal Government and the Provincial Government both in relation to this.

MR. RICHARD MORRIS: Yes, we will be.

THE COMMISSIONER: Do you deal with them separately, or is there any way you can deal with them together, or do you deal with them separately depending on the circumstances?

MR. RICHARD MORRIS: The previous organization, the District School Committee dealt specifically with the Department of





Indian Affairs, which is Federal Government only, and hopefully with this new organization, we will deal with the Provincial Government.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: But there has been nothing set up that allows you to deal with both Governments at the same time. You will be dealing with one Government for certain things, and another one for other things?

MR. RICHARD MORRIS: Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much, Richard.

20 MR. BILL MAMAKEESIC: At this time I would like to call the Elder from Pikangikum, Whitehead Moose, <sup>come up and</sup> to/make his presentation. And while the Elder is preparing himself we are going to have a couple of individual presentations, right after we have our area presentations, after we finish with our Pehtabun area presentations, and one of the people making an individual presentation will be Jacob Fiddler from Sandy Lake. Jacob is one of the former chiefs of this Reserve.

30 WHITEHEAD MOOSE

MR. MOOSE: I am happy to be here also at this meeting, and to be able to meet the Commissioner, but I am unable to read in English and Indian, because I have not had any formal education. I would like to ask to read the presentation in Indian first, and then Bill Mamakeesic will read the presentation in English afterwards.

40 (Presentation of Brief in Indian language).



MR. BILL MAMAKEESIC:

"Mr. Justice Hartt, my name is Whitehead Moose and I am part of the Pikangikum band. I live in Pikangikum for about two months in the summer and two or three months in the winter, but the rest of the time I live in the land around Stout Lake. I would like to say something to you today.

In the beginning the Great Spirit made the earth and the animals and the forest and the water, and it was good. The Great Spirit gave this land to us. It was set aside for our benefit. Now Reed wants to take away our land and our means of living. I cannot say to Reed that it is acceptable for them to destroy the forest, because I believe in the Great Spirit and I have a fear of destroying what the Great Spirit means. I intend to stay on the land the Great Spirit gave us. I will not allow our land and our lives to be destroyed. I will not sell what the Great Spirit has given to the Indian people. I respect the Great Spirit and so must all people. I have been a commercial fisherman for thirty years. I have been trapping since I was 12 years old, and I am now 67. I have spent most of my time on the trap line, and my father was the first one to have the trap line on Stout Lake, and I have spent most of my life in that area. I never had any formal schooling and I don't understand English, but I know how to support my family. Now I have some young people with me, and I teach them how to hunt and fish





10 "and look after their families, remembering the way that my father taught me. Even our women, no one has to tell them what to do. The young men's wives knew what to do when the men bring them an animal. The young women know how to store meat in the summer time. The Great Spirit still looks after his creatures, the birds and the fish and the animals, and he provides them with food, and the Indian people still use the land, for the forests and rivers and lakes provide for all our needs. I make a good living from the land, and if I see two animals, I kill one and let one go. I was  
20 taught that you don't kill both, because you don't need both. If there are only a few moose in the area, I leave that area alone for a year, or if there are only a few lynx, I don't touch that area. There are only a few cariboo left, so when I see one I just leave him alone.  
30 My father used to warn me not to sport with the animals, not to play with them, for these things were created for my survival, and I use only what I need to support myself. When the Government made a treaty with us he promised not to take away our means of survival. We remember and we expected the Government to keep its promises to our ancestors, just as we have kept ours. The Government promised that it was  
40 not going to judge how many animals we kill, but now they come up with quotas on everything. They have quotas on the fish and on the wild rice in the area. The wild rice was put there for



"the Indian to use as food, but the Government puts a quota on it. If you don't collect the right amount to sell in the South, the Government gives the licence to a white man. The Government doesn't care whether or not I get enough out of it to feed my family for the winter. We were never informed that they were going to build tourist camps in our commercial fishing area. Some times the Indians are stopped from fishing in those lakes until the weather gets cold. We want to be consulted about these things because we are the ones who were given that land. I fished on Moar Lake for 20 years, and now M.N.R. has taken away my licence because the lake is polluted with mercury; but the tourists still fish in the lake. I am very disappointed because fishing is all I do in the summer. I don't take white man's work, I prefer to work with the land as did my ancestors, and now Reed wants to destroy the land, he wants to destroy the environment and my way of life. The reason why the animals have grown here is because they have not been disturbed. When the animals see a human, they run away. The animals do not run away when the Indian is near because the Indians know how not to disturb them. The Great Spirit made the forest for the animals to live in and to raise their young. If the trees are cut down, for the animals it will be like delivering your babies on the ice. There will be no shelter from the cold or sun. The rabbits need





10 "a forested area to hide from the other animals,  
and if the bush is cut down and the rabbits go,  
there will be no lakes and no fishing because  
they survive by eating the rabbits, and if there  
are no animals, what are the people going to  
live on. We need this kind of food. We need  
the food we were created to eat. And if Reed  
destroys what we need for our diet, how are we  
to survive.

20 The white man was given farming to supply his  
needs, and the Indian was given the bush. So  
what are we to do if the bush is gone? The  
white man has a good education. He knows how  
to handle white man's jobs. Then why does he  
have to come and live off what the Indians were  
meant to live off from.

30 When the Great Spirit promised the Indian that he  
could live off this land in this area, he  
planned these things for our survival, and until  
the Great Spirit changes his plans, I will not  
let this land go.

That is all I have to say."

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much, sir, for  
making this moving presentation. I would say it was very  
carefully considered.

40 --- EXHIBIT NO. 240:

Presentation by Mr. Whitehead  
Moose.

MR. BILL MAMAKEESIC: At this time we want to  
present the Pehtabun Area Chiefs' presentation, and the  
Chairman of Pehtabun Area will now make his presentation.



BILL MAMAKEESIC

"Mr. Justice Martt, I thank you and your Royal Commission for this chance to speak to you on behalf of the Pehtabun area and its people.

I hope you and your Commissioners have listened closely to the presentations of our chiefs and our elders. I trust you will try to understand our style of meeting. Our meetings are not like those of the white man. We begin only when everyone feels ready. We do not put forward motions, and allow a majority of votes to cancel out the opinions of the minority. Our meetings are slow and each matter is thoroughly discussed. And when a position is reached that allows all to feel content in their hearts, then we have reached our resolution.

Similarly, our presentations reflect our tradition. When our elders and our chiefs speak, they talk of the everyday concerns of our lives, but don't be mislead by our traditional style of speaking. Try to understand the rich symbolism and levels of meaning in each statement. When a community tells you that mothers no longer breast-feed their children, they are not talking about a minor disagreement between the old ways and the new ways, or a petty quarrel between older and younger people. In part, the message is that change is coming too fast, and our traditions are starting to show signs of break up. A child grows up respecting a mother that breast-fed him, and this respect is a respect





"for one's elders. If the elders are not respected then tradition is not followed. If tradition fails, we are lost as a people. Breast-feeding is symbolic of change that is coming at us faster than we want in our fear of loss of tradition and loss of respect for our elders.

In the same way when MacDowell Lake people tell you how many people and houses and ski-doo's and dogs they have, they are not trying to be community stock clerks. These people are saying that they have a great deal of pride in what they have accomplished on their own and without Government aid. They have a great amount of self-satisfaction and confidence in their ability to live off the land in a traditional, free, manner. They are telling you about their progress and telling you that they wish to continue progressing in a manner of their own choosing and not to have to fear the loss of their land.

You must remember too, that Indian people did not sign away their land to be ripped apart. When our ancestors signed a treaty, they thought they had agreed to share their sacred trust with the land with their white brothers. This treaty was not a sale of land, it was like a lease and the white man agreed to pay treaty money as a rent on this land for as long as the rivers shall flow and the sun shall shine. The white man has not always honoured his part of this bargain. But we still seek to honour ours and maintain our sacred relationship with the



"land.

This brings us to another theme in our presentation. Governments, since the days of the treaty have not responded to our needs, and many Government services are badly delivered. Many communities do not receive the type of health services that they need. We have no hospitals in our area, and must depend on nursing stations to provide for our medical needs. Too often our people find, because of a lack of money or a lack of understanding by our nurses, that those who are seriously ill do not get out to a hospital. This has been the cause of many tragic deaths. We need assistance in making our case and bringing about the changes to right the situation. Our education system is also badly lacking. Too many of our young people are being educated in a way that leaves them unable to cope in the white world, and yet lack the traditional skills that would allow them to successfully live off the land. We need an education system that will allow a child to grow mentally, physically and spiritually into a well-balanced, useful community citizen. We, for our part, are now attempting to establish a wilderness centre where our elders may teach the skills of living off the land to the younger people, before this knowledge dies out. But we need help to show the inadequacies of our current system, and to make it respond to our needs. Another area of major concern is our mail system. The delivery of mail in our communities is very



"irregular, and this is a matter that concerns us deeply. It is very hard on a family that depends on a regular cheque to feed and clothe small children when they don't receive a needed cheque for up to two weeks.

As well, we must constantly worry about the safety of our loved ones in unsafe aircraft. We feel we need help in seeing that air standards in the North are high and well enforced. All too many of us have grieved the loss of relatives and friends in crashed aircrafts."

I would like to add to that, Justice Hartt, that even though we have a lot of airplane companies in this area, the Government still felt that you had to take an MNR airplane to be able to come to Sandy Lake, instead of the local aircrafts. That is the kind of aircraft we deal with every day, and that is what we call unsafe aircraft.

"Mr. Justice Hartt, we look forward to progress in the North, but controlled developments for the betterment of our peoples, and not the type of development that is destructive to everything but the profit margin of a large multi-national corporation. We have heard that Reed Paper no longer wants the tract of land they had asked for, but we fear that if Reed does not want these forests, then another company with the same bad habits will take the forest sooner or later anyway.

We have also heard that a pipeline is to be built close to our communities. We want to know what will be the effects of this pipeline





"on the land and the animals, and why we have not been consulted about this pipeline that will affect our lives.

We have been told that our rivers may be dammed to create hydro electric power, but we have not been consulted and we think that dams will badly affect our lives.

These matters concern us greatly, and highlight what is perhaps our greatest problem. We lack the power to effectively control our own future. We need greater local autonomy.

Mr. Justice Hartt, we, the Indian people look to your Royal Commission with raised hope. In our Pehtabun Area, we have struggled with Governments that do not seem to care about our people, and have watched plans being made for the destruction of our land and our lives.

This has gone on too long.

We also hear that the Royal Commission may not continue. We pray that the Great Spirit will harden your heart to your critics. The Indian people look to you and your Commission to hear our voice and allow our voice to be heard in our future. We want to be consulted and informed about the future of our land, and now only you can give us that chance to be heard.

Mr. Justice Hartt, I would ask you to consider many matters as you fly over this beautiful rugged land of the Cree and Ojibway. Look down and see the land, the forests, the lakes, the rivers; the vast muskegs and remember the animals, the moose, the beavers, the bears, the cariboo and



"so many other animals; fish and birds. Look from your plane and see my people in their communities and living on the land. This land that was given by the Great Spirit to be ours in sacred trust. The land, the animals, and our people, live bound in an ancient and sacred relationship. Our souls are united with this land and whatever would wound the land must scar us also.

Remember these things and ask yourself about proposed Northern development: what is the cost. What is the cost of raping the land of its forests and minerals. What is the cost of re-arranging the land by flooding and pipelines. What is the cost of driving the animals from the land. What is the cost of polluted lakes and rivers and destroying fisheries. What is the cost of tearing the soul from a man or his people.

Can there be development without progress, and is the destruction of a land and its people by slow crushing soul-tearing means, the progress that Canadians want? Can Canadians really not see that this land was given by the Great Spirit to be cherished and cared for. Can a man not see that destruction of a land and its forests, its animals and its people is a grave offense against mankind and a greater offense to the Great Spirit.

Mr. Justice Hartt, we want you to ask yourself these questions, and we pray that the Great Spirit gives you the courage and strength to





"see the truth and come to just conclusions.

Mr. Justice Hartt, Pehtabun means "The Coming of a New Day" in our language. We trust you will help us to find a bright future in that New Day."

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THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much, Bill. As you know, I do not intend to make any comment in relation to your submission at this time, but these preliminary meetings which are being held for a specific purpose are slowly drawing to an end, and you will be hearing from me in a preliminary report very soon. Thank you.

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---EXHIBIT NO. 241:

Presentation of Pehtabun Area Chiefs, by Mr. Bill Mamakeesic.

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MR. BILL MAMAKEESIC: At this time I would like to ask one of our elders on the Reserve to come and give an individual presentation, Mr. Jacob Fiddler. Jacob was our former Chief in the past. Chris Cromarty will translate for Jacob.

MR. JACOB FIDDLER

40

CHRIS CROMARTY: He says: that I want to tell you about when I first heard that you were going to be appointed to hold these hearings, to look at the concerns of the Indian people as well as the non-Indian people, living in the Northern part of our Province. He heard that before your appointment, we were aware that this had been considered by the Government of Ontario, and we heard this through our own leader, Andy Rickard, and also through the member for this area, Leo Bernier, that these hearings



under your Chairmanship will probably be forthcoming.

10 In your initial preliminary meetings, you have heard, or probably found out from what the Indian people have told you, and from what the non-Indian people have told you, many of the Government, that is the Ontario Government's regulations and rules that have been set up for all people in Ontario, are not applicable to this particular part of the country. We are sure you will recognize this from what you have heard so far. I have been to your opening meetings in Sioux Lookout, which he attended himself, and also the hearings in Red Lake where you heard the Indian people express their concerns, and also the non-Indian people. And when these people have presented their  
20 presentations to you, it is with the hope you will try to understand and try to help them with their concerns.

I want to mention something to you at this point, particularly the forest cutting that has been mentioned, and also the gas pipeline that has been mentioned that might be coming close by to our communities. You have heard, and I have heard, that the pipeline in the  
30 North, in the Eskimo country, was destructive for the Eskimo people and their lifestyle, and I encourage you at this time to look for ways where these developments will not destroy our way of life and our lives, and also to look for ways that will help the non-Indian people in what they want to do. I want you to consider, seriously, how it will help both the Indian people and the non-Indian  
40 people, who are interested in making these developments that they will be safe and will not be harmful to us. The Government has appointed you to chair these hearings, and also to make a final report to the Government with your recommendations. I would wish that you would consider these



two developments, the Reed proposed cutting, and also the Polar Gas Pipeline which will be coming close to some of our native communities in this area. I would hope that you will give serious consideration to all of the things the Indian<sup>have</sup>/so far expressed to you. You have heard many presentations made to you, particularly at Osnaburgh, and that you will give those presentations your serious consideration as to how the Indian people will be helped in the future, that they may have a decent life in the future. We have told you that for too long the life of the Indian people that has been given a fragmented-type of consideration in the progress of our Province here, and we would like to see a more directional-type of approach given to our concerns and our hopes in the future, so that our native people will be given full consideration in the future. That is all I have to say at this time.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much, Jacob Fiddler, it is nice to see you again.

MR. BILL MAMAKEESIC: I thought we would have another little while, four or five minutes for sure, when I mentioned there would be another individual presentation, but I can see now that we do not have that much time, because I want to ask the Deer Lake people. Apparently the Deer Lake people wanted to give Justice Hartt a gift on behalf of their community, and I would like to ask them to come now. I have mentioned that there might be time for an additional speaker, but time is very pressing at this stage, so we will go on now to the Deer Lake people giving their gift to Justice Hartt. I have asked our Elder that opened this meeting, Mr. Tom Fiddler, to come and close the





whole thing off in a few minutes.

This is the Elder of the Deer Lake Community,  
David Meeks.

(Presentation to Commissioner Hartt)

BILL MAMAKEESIC:

At this time I would like to thank everybody  
who made a point of coming here. We would like you to  
come back again on the next circle around. Mr. Justice  
Hartt would like to say something before Tom closes the  
meeting.

THE COMMISSIONER: I just want to thank every-  
one for coming to the meetings. I hope you understand, and  
I have said this before, that these are just preliminary  
meetings to try and find out how the Commission can be of  
assistance to you and the other Indian people in the North,  
and to all the people of this Province. The terms of  
reference of the Commission as set up by the Provincial  
Government, were so wide that it was really impossible to  
cope with them within any reasonable period of time, so it  
was decided to proceed by way of these preliminary hearings  
and I hope everyone understands that is exactly what they  
are, they are just an effort to try and develop some focus  
for the Commission so that its relevance can be determined  
by you. They are not set up to listen to all the concerns  
at this time, but I am very grateful for all the submissions  
that have been put before the Commission, and all the help  
that has been given to me. I would like to thank Bill  
Mamakeesic and Chris Cromarty especially for their help, and  
the Chiefs, Tom Fiddler and everyone who has been so kind  
to us on our visit to Sandy Lake. I am becoming very anxious



and looking forward all the time to meeting some of my old friends now, if I may refer to them as that, who have come to the different meetings. I am very appreciative of all the help, and I thank you very much for your kindness to us.

I would like to make one further comment, and that is with regard to the painting that I was given last night. It was a great privilege to meet Mr. Rae, and I was overwhelmed by his painting. I assure you that it will be something I will treasure. Thank you very much.

MR. TOM FIDDLER: I will address all of you here, and the children. I am very grateful for all of the people that make their presentations. I am not going to speak too much. I have great faith that you yourselves in making your presentation will speak for yourselves very clearly, and I hope that you will learn as you hear different presentations made, and I shall also learn from hearing from the presentations that are made. The reason I feel so grateful to you for coming here, is that during the time I was Chief I had, on different occasions travelled through the North here to the different communities, Sachigo, Big Trout Lake, Cat Lake, Red Lake, Pikangikum, and when I hear you make your presentations, I am hopeful that you have learned something from me during the time that I visited your communities, from our discussions and from what you have presented here. I hope some of that has been of help to you, and I would hope for all of you, that you will also be grateful for having the opportunity presented to you to present your concerns and your hopes to the people here. You all know that we have one Great Spirit, and that in our happiness and in our deliberations he will



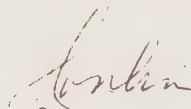


only take good things that will be meaningful for all  
of us. When all these presentations that we have made  
here to the Commission, if any of those presentations  
or paragraphs, or sentences were not presented, or if  
they did not really mean anything to the people present-  
ing them, that they will not be of any use to anyone.  
When we think together on the same thing, the Great Spirit  
will look on that as the wishes for us, and it in turn  
will give us happiness, and whatever truth that we use in  
our presentation. That is all I want to say.

(closing prayer)

--- Adjournment.

CERTIFIED CORRECT.



(Thomas F. Conlin),  
Official Reporter.



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Government  
Publications

ROYAL COMMISSION

ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT



Hearing held in the Kenora Recreation  
Centre, Kenora, Ontario, on  
January 17th, 1978, on commencing at  
2:00 P.M.

Thomas F. Conlin,  
Official Reporter.



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ROYAL COMMISSION

ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

Hearing held in the Kenora Recreation  
Centre, Kenora, Ontario, on  
January 17th, 1978, on commencing  
at 2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
and 7:30 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

- - -

BEFORE:

Mr. Justice E.P. Hartt - Commissioner.

APPEARANCES:

John I. Laskin, Esq., - Counsel to the Commission.



---On commencing at 2:00 p.m.

10 MR. LASKIN: Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to welcome you to the preliminary meetings of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment here in Kenora. I believe we are going to begin with an introductory ceremony by the Lake of the Woods Pow-wow Club. Mr. Morrison.

(Prayer in Indian language)

20 FRANK KELLY: Mr. Justice Hartt, it is a great pleasure and honour to make this presentation to you; its symbolic significance, the peace pipe to the Indian people is of great importance, especially today; we are coming together, the Indian and the White to speak, to listen to each other, our concern for the land, people and of the future. Let us today listen to each other with open minds and speak with straight tongue. It is customary with the Ojibway to smoke the pipe before any activities begin; it is our way of paying our respects to the Creator, the  
30 Great Spirit, the Mother Earth and all living things. Without these things we would not be able to survive. It is also our way of saying that we will speak honestly and open mind, but let us smoke the pipe and become part of the circle which is the Universe; become one in our hearts as we smoke the pipe.

40 THE COMMISSIONER: May the pipe symbolize all our relationships. Thank you.

MR. LASKIN: I would now like to call upon John Kelly to say a few introductory words on behalf of Grand Council Treaty No.3.

JOHN KELLY: Mr. Commissioner, at Sioux Lookout on November 7th, 1977, I had the honour as Grand Chief of





Treaty No.3 Ojibway Bands to welcome you to Treaty No.3 territory. Again at Dryden on November 9th, 1977, I had the opportunity of addressing you on behalf of my people. Today for a third time your Commission has travelled to Treaty No.3 area to hear the concerns of the people of the north and we welcome you.

We were concerned when we heard you had taken ill and were forced to cancel your sessions at Kenora. We welcome your swift recovery and your decision to reschedule your hearings. We think that the one month interval took something away from the momentum of your Commission, but now see no reason why it cannot be regained and even surpassed.

Kenora is a focal point for Treaty No.3 activities and has been for many years. It is for this reason that Grand Council Treaty No.3 requested that its major presentation be made here; that presentation has been scheduled for Thursday of this week and we are looking forward to placing it before you.

Today, my role is simple, and that is merely to express welcome on behalf of my people, the Ojibway. As you know the Ojibways are famous for their hospitality and generosity; do not hesitate to enjoy them fully throughout your stay.

Many of my chiefs have travelled here to attend this hearing and some cannot remain until Thursday so I do wish to introduce them to you now. If I may I would like to introduce Chief Robin Green of Shoal Lake 39; Chief Peter Kelly; Chief Joseph Big George of Snake Island; Chief Rubin Casson, Wabigoon; Chief Fred Copenace, Big Grassy; Chief Ray Ningwance, Lac Seul, and, of course, I will take the risk of not mentioning some of the people and it's only



because I cannot see them, I don't know where they are sitting.

Thank you very much.

MR. LASKIN: Now, I would like to call upon Mr. George McMillan who I believe will say a few introductory words on behalf of the Town of Kenora and will also present to us the brief of the Town. Mr. McMillan.

GEORGE McMILLAN

Your Honour, Members of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of my colleagues and Council and Mayor Udo Romstedt, who is not with us today, I would like to extend a very warm word of welcome to you, your Commission and the people who have travelled here from distant points.

While Kenora may not be north of the 50th parallel we are only some 18 miles short of being so, we find that in our position we provide a great deal of service to those who live in the vast District of Kenora. We commend the Royal Commission for scheduling hearings in Kenora. We feel that through your visit you will see some of the difficulties that northerners encounter. We feel also that you will see many of the things that we enjoy, that we cherish and that we are proud of. We feel that during your deliberations in the next few days that you will hear many points of view. We sincerely hope that they will be meaningful deliberations and rewarding. Thank you very much.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much for your kind words of welcome on behalf of the Town and I also thank Chief Kelly and the other Chiefs from the Treaty 3 area who are here for their welcome and the gift of the pipe.



May I apologize first of all for the inconvenience that I know that I occasioned to many people because of the inability to attend here at the time of the scheduled meetings prior to Christmas. I apologize for that, I know it caused a great deal of inconvenience to a lot of people.

May I just say very briefly something about these preliminary hearings. They are for the very limited purpose of trying to ascertain from the people of the north themselves, from the people who live within the study area and close to it what are their principal concerns, and what priority should be given to those particular concerns. I'm also interested in determining how the people of the north see this Commission, whether it is relevant to them and to their aspirations for the north and to their lives, and if it is not then I assure you that I want to hear that also and be told what other types of mechanisms or what other processes can be developed which can be relevant and can hope to fulfil the aspirations of the people of northern Ontario.

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.

Ladies and gentlemen, before we continue our proceedings this afternoon perhaps I can take just a few minutes to tell you a little bit about how we hope to conduct these preliminary meetings. Most of the scheduled speakers and organizations you will hear from this afternoon and this evening have already prepared written briefs which they will highlight or summarize in their presentations to the Commission. These written briefs are of considerable assistance to us at this stage of the proceedings but we have also tried to make them available to anyone who is interested by distributing them across various public libraries in this





Province and, therefore, for example, there is hopefully now or will be shortly a complete record of all the Commission's proceedings to date including all of the submissions we have received at the Kenora Public Library. We would like these proceedings to be as informal and as relaxed as possible. We hope, of course, that you will come and raise issues but we don't intend these meetings to be adversarial in nature and, therefore, for example, we are not subjecting any speaker or any organization to cross-examination by any other interested party. Commissioner Hartt or myself may ask a question but it will only be to clarify some point which may be unclear or to elicit some further information. We do have a Court Reporter and I will formally be marking all of the written briefs into our record as exhibits but that is only to ensure that we have a complete record of all of the proceedings and of what everyone has said to the Commission.

There is one other aspect of our preliminary meetings which we on the Commission feel is very important, and that is the opportunity for us to listen to the views of local residents, and that is what is meant by the phrase "open participation" which appears on the printed schedule. I hope some of you will come forward and address Commissioner Hartt on any northern issues pertaining to our terms of reference which you believe is significant or important, and don't feel that you need a written brief to come and speak to us, you do not, and again, you won't be cross-examined on anything you say, and I hope you won't be intimidated by our set-up here and by all of the equipment and TV cameras which are with us. If you do wish to speak please come up and let me know any time in the afternoon or otherwise let another member of the Commission's staff somewhere around the room know and they will pass on the word to me.



The phrase "open participation" although it does appear at the end of the schedule is a little misleading in that regard and I hope that we will be able to hear from various individuals throughout each session, both in the afternoon and the evening.

If you have any other questions about the Commission just ask one of the members of the Commission staff. There is a good deal of material about the Commission outside and I hope you will pick up copies of all of the documents including the terms of reference and a questionnaire which I hope you will fill out.

We do, as you can see, have a very lengthy schedule of presentations this afternoon and this evening and in addition to what is already printed there are already a number of other individuals and groups who have requested time to speak and it is because of that and in order that everyone has an opportunity to speak that I am going to ask in advance that if at all possible each speaker limit his or her presentations to fifteen minutes, if it is at all possible.

We will have a coffee break sometime during the afternoon and I believe it is appropriate that we now begin and as I said Mr. George McMillan will make the first presentation on behalf of the Town of Kenora. George.

MR. McMILLAN: Thank you very much.

GEORGE McMILLAN

It may be well to begin with a very brief history on the Town of Kenora, and because of the fifteen minute time limit I will make it even briefer than it is outlined in the printed submission.



The first civic government was formed in 1883 and following a dispute between the provinces of Manitoba and Ontario the jurisdiction of this territory issue was finally taken to the Privy Council in London, England, and Rat Portage was declared part of the Province of Ontario.

In 1892 the Township of Rat Portage was incorporated as the Town of Rat Portage and in 1905, the name "Kenora" was chosen by its citizens to replace the earlier designation. The first settlement can be traced back to a Hudson's Bay Post which in fact in its later years was contained within the present town limits.

Kenora, of course, as you are all well aware except maybe for our visitors is located on the north end of beautiful Lake of the Woods of which our residents are highly proud and cherish very greatly. This lake is the source of the Winnipeg River.

Our beginning, I suppose, centers around the fur industry, lumbering, mining, transportation, tourism and the woods industry, including paper manufacturing. These formed the basis of our economic activity over the last hundred years and is now augmented by governmental and other services.

We are very proud of our history in sports and we have excelled in hockey, rowing and curling on numerous occasions.

The current population of Kenora is in the neighbourhood of 10,565 with neighbouring communities of Keewatin, and the Township of Jaffray-Melick, we run close to 16,000 people.

The current municipal assessment \$81,000,000.00,





and the total manufacturing values in the neighbourhood of \$80,000,000.00; the manufacturing payroll totalling \$18,000,000.00.

10 The reason I point this out is that we are nearing our 100th birthday and during that time we will be reflecting on the past, and as one who has lived in Kenora and been very proud of Kenora I feel that all our residents will feel the same way as they reflect on the past.

20 We will also feel an obligation to continue that good life which we enjoy in these parts of Ontario and because of that, Mr. Hartt, I have mentioned the historical background which it should be our intention to preserve.

30 While many amenities are enjoyed by the citizens of the Town of Kenora and the economic well-being of the community in area has not been affected to the same degree by unemployment as we have experienced in other areas of the country. It is strikingly evident that Kenora is in a vulnerable economic position because its three main sources of employment, paper and lumbering industry, tourism and transportation could, in fact, realize a setback at some time or another. Therefore, historically, the civic government has assumed an active and positive role in the development and promotion of its economic base and will work for the furtherance of these policies in the future. Close liaison will be maintained with the major employers: Ontario-Minnesota Pulp & Paper Company Limited and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and continuing municipal financial support will be given to the local publicity board for the expansion of tourism.

40 To remain competitive, the local newsprint mill will be required to maintain an adequate supply of its raw



material and it is submitted that it is as much in the interest of the Town as the company to ensure a proper allocation of timber limits in the foreseeable future so that continuity of production will not be affected. The residual economic benefits resulting from maximum output of the local newsprint mill are felt by the entire population and any move on the part of government or competitive forces to dislocate the balance of supply and demand of this mill cannot be supported by the Town.

Municipalities, like all other levels of government, accrue considerable debt charges in order to provide the essential services such as sewer and water. Operating costs associated with other services such as recreational facilities, libraries, in other municipally-orientated buildings are also very high to operate in the north in view of the heat and light demands during our long cold winters, it goes without saying each and every resident of the north experiencing higher budgetary demands for fuel and light requirements than our counterparts in southern Ontario.

Long-term planning necessarily has to consider a community's ability to pay for the services it offers in terms of capital costs and operating expenses. Decisions have to be made with the assumption that our major industry, the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp & Paper Company, will continue to offer stable employment.

We have to assume also that other major industries will flourish and provide ample job opportunities in the future.

Any action which would directly or indirectly diminish these job opportunities in the community would



surely lead to a declining population and resulting hardships on those left behind as they endeavour to meet financial obligations established under present conditions.

Improvements can be realized in the area. We feel that the better utilization of available raw materials, forestation, pollution control and improvements in transportation facilities, which are goals the present government and industry are now committed to. We strongly support these goals and feel that they are in the best interest of all northerners. Future development and environmental controls, however, must be considered together. We feel that no one should be expected to sacrifice life or health for the benefit of materialistic gain of any kind. The cooperation of all sectors will be required to assure the success of achieving these goals.

We feel the woods industry should be encouraged to expand in our area through the full utilization of all types of wood available in the area. Not only the spruce and the pine in the manufacturing process of the pulp and paper industry but the establishment of a secondary woods manufacturing industry to utilize the bountiful species of hardwood native to the Kenora district. It is likely a requirement for economic viability that type of industry in the area that a system of subsidized freight rates would have to be introduced. This is very closely related to other industries who have found that the freight rate charges in this area do not make it a viable operation to commence operation out of northwestern Ontario.

The Town of Kenora would also support an extension to the Jones Road, a timber access road north and east of Kenora to connect with Red Lake, Highway No.105 in the area of





Aerobus Lake and the road be upgraded to normal provincial standards. This development would increase access to forestry resources, complement tourist development in the area and provide an alternate route for Red Lake road traffic.

10 For some of these same reasons we urge the Commission to impress upon the Provincial Government the desirability of constructing a road to resources north of Kenora to the Werner Lake area which would connect to an existing road to Werner Lake from the Province of Manitoba. Besides the forestry and tourism potential through easier accessibility to this area the potential for a mining develop-  
20 ment in the area is rather significant.

30 Since the hearings have commenced we are aware that numerous benefits in briefs and statements have been presented to you and we are certain that you have heard conflicting statements and/or positions. We have a very real concern that parochial positions of groups and individuals throughout the north can only cause dissension when the environment in which we live dictates that Northerners must  
40 pull together for the betterment of all. For instance, there are those who would feel threatened by some of the suggestions I have made already, and as a result formulate negative responses, but I say we must work together on resolving these differences. The very community make-up found in the north ranges from communities which offer a full complement of services and activities to those communities which have only the bare necessities; these communities may be separated by relatively short distances resulting in neighbours having very different life-styles. Though the styles may differ each community is dependent on the other for each shares in the services and facilities offered by



the larger urban communities and each feels the impact of economic highs and lows which are so prevalent in single resource-based industries so common to northwestern Ontario.

10 We would point out to the Commission that we recognized all areas of the north have their individual concerns and how these may be effected in the future by utilization of the resources that surround them. We would also ask the Commission to recognize the fact that the north was opened up to the utilization of these natural resources and any decision to curb this utilization will have a profound effect on the ability of all communities to provide employment opportunities and for the larger communities sustain the  
20 broad range of services and facilities which are made available to all residents throughout the north. For example, although one may not live in the Town of Kenora, you may find yourself in a remote area; the services of which I speak that outsiders, in fact, often make use of: hospital and emergency services, professional services, governmental and educational services, transportation requirements, whether it be your car,  
30 your snow machine, your boat, an aeroplane, a bus or whatever; shopping facilities, recreation facilities, libraries to offer you further books for educational purposes, and museums to preserve your past heritage. These are only a few of the services which the communities offer to the outsiders. Yes, we depend on the forests to preserve the Town and those on the  
40 outside of our boundaries depend upon the Town for goods and services. There is a very real need for cooperation. It should be everyone's concern not to jeopardize the community life as we have become accustomed to knowing it.

For the best utilization of forestry and timber resources remain a high priority in Kenora's aspirations.



10 Other considerations such as new development of mining and mineral resource and energy including transmission, the widening of tourism and recreation including added physical amenities, extension and improvements to transportation and communication facilities and the sustaining and betterment of the quality of life of the people of this community and district continue to be realistic objectives. Not only of the civic government but of all of us who are privileged to call ourselves Northerners. We must look beyond Reed Paper which has started these discussions in the minds of many. We look beyond our O&M mill in the Town of Kenora and we look beyond our tourist industry even, for we see that north of the 50th parallel future developments in this area represent resources essential to relieving some of the problems associated with living in the north. Northern Gas and Hydro-Electric power developments would not only assist us through our long cold winter months by providing us power, heat, light from a closer resource than we now experience; it would also provide us with job opportunities for our graduate students. At the present time we find many of our graduate students have to exodus from the northwestern Ontario towns in order to seek employment careers. We would like to see a remedy for this.

40 Developments of this nature would also assure that dollars spent on gas and hydro in northern communities would remain in the Province of Ontario to aid in future developments of our untapped resources.

Orderly planning in the development and utilization of the physical and human resources in northwestern Ontario cannot help but be well served by the work of the Royal Commission. Your work will hold the attention of this community and this civic government and in the future should





further discussions be deemed necessary be assured of our interest and our desire to further assist in this project.

Thank you very much.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much, Mr. McMillan.

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Mr. McMillan. I would like to mark a copy of your written brief into our record as Exhibit No.242.

---EXHIBIT NO.242: Submission of Town of Kenora.

MR. LASKIN: Our next presentation is from the Ministry of Culture & Recreation and will be made by Mr. Patty Reed, who is the Regional Archeologist for the Northwest Region of Ontario. Mr. Reed.

PATTY REED

Mr. Commissioner, Members of the Royal Commission, on behalf of my Ministry I would like to express our thanks for this chance to outline our programs and services in northern Ontario north of 50. We have three branches which operate north of 50 in the Ministry of Culture & Recreation.

Firstly, the Indian Community Secretariat, who is headed by Mr. Garry Besserer, as Area Supervisor. Secondly, the Field Services Branch, headed by Mr. Doug Clark, Regional Manager, and my branch, the historical planning and research branch. Mr. Besserer and Mr. Clark are stationed in Thunder Bay and I'm stationed here in Kenora.

We have previously tabled our submission and I



would briefly like to go across our programs and services specifically north of 50.

Our Ministry was established in 1975 and brought together cultural and recreational programs existing throughout the Ontario government and the Ministry is entrusted with three tasks. The first is the preservation and maintenance of the cultural heritage of Ontario residents, with full recognition of their diverse traditions and backgrounds they possess. The second is to promote access to the benefits of citizenship in Ontario and to promote an active involvement in the cultural and recreational life of this province. The third is to stimulate development of new forms of cultural expression and to promote the concept of individual and community excellence.

In northern Ontario and north of 50 our Ministry field consultants of the Field Services Branch play a key role in reflecting the Ministry's concerns at the local level and in responding to the community's cultural and recreational interests, realities and needs, and relating them to the Ministry of Culture & Recreation's own resources.

There are Regional Offices for Field Services Branch in Thunder Bay and North Bay and sub-offices in Dryden, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins.

In addition, there are field consultants from the Indian Community Secretariat to effect liaison with Native peoples located in Moosonee, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Dryden, Fort Frances, Geraldton, Kenora and Red Lake.

And finally, there are three regional archeologists from the Heritage Conservation Division stationed in



Thunder Bay, Kenora and Sault Ste. Marie.

Northern Ontario communities are eligible for all of the services and programs of the Ministry of Culture & Recreation, including our major grants programs.

For instance, with the Community Recreation Centres Act the normal formula allows for 25% to a maximum of \$75,000.00. For an Indian Band the consultant has final recommendation for authority to grant up to 50% to a maximum of \$150,000.00, and also has the discretion, should it be warranted, to make the recommendation for additional support under the Minister's prerogative.

Similarly, the Wintario Grants Program which this Ministry administers responds to the initiatives of non-profit community-based groups by sharing in the cost of special one-time projects or events which are not otherwise available on a matched funding basis for such things as physical fitness and sports, art support, public libraries, multicultural activities and heritage conservation.

Depending on circumstances in order to assist those communities with less ability than others, especially in the north, provide matching funds it has been possible to accept the value of donated labour and materials in lieu of cash contributions as is normal.

Capital projects in northern and eastern Ontario are eligible for assistance in an amount up to 50% of the net capital cost. Private support must be provided on the basis of \$1 for every \$2 of Wintario's share after other provincial and federal subsidies have been deducted. Thus the Ministry of Culture & Recreation capital support could be as high as three-quarters of the cost of a





recreational facility north of 50.

Also, in cases of genuine need where the total private sector contribution is insufficient and where the field consultant believes that the capital facility is needed and can be maintained by the community, the consultant may recommend additional Wintario support for such a project.

This covers briefly what our Field Services and Indian Community Secretariat people do.

In my own Branch, Historical Planning and Research Branch, north of 50, there are particular characteristics and sensitivities which surround the nature, significance and conservation of heritage resources and the potential benefits of effective heritage conservation to both the northern community and the Province are considerable.

Historical Planning and Research Branch recognizes these facts through the presence of our Regional Archeological Offices here in Kenora, in Thunder Bay, in Sault Ste. Marie and a new one just opening in Red Lake.

This Branch is a part of Heritage Conservation Division and we also service part of the Ontario Heritage Foundation. The Division and the Foundation together provide support and advice in the areas of architectural conservation, history of archeology and heritage resource management in interpretation to northern Ontario communities.

The Branch activity centers around two major programs; the first involves working with land disturbance or land disturbance monitoring Ministries and agencies to preserve our heritage resources. The purpose of this program is to maximize the preservation of the resources at a minimum cost and with minimum disruption of the objections of the



land disturbance agencies involved.

The program consists of a fairly sophisticated heritage planning and survey capability which depends for its effectiveness upon a comprehensive data base in the field. It works by understanding and participating in the planning processes of other agencies. For example, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Ontario Hydro and private agencies at an early stage. Identifying those areas of conflicts and areas for further investigation at a time when the process is still flexible and low cost conflict resolutions are still available. The capability to identify and evaluate the heritage resource base is essential in our view. The data base enables us both to pinpoint known sensitive areas and perhaps more importantly to predict areas of both probable high and low sensitivities north of 50.

This program is designed to be complementary to and to stimulate heritage activities in academia, the private sector and the public at large by providing a base or framework from which many directions can be pursued.

The second important aspect of the Branch's operation is the administration of provincial legislation concerning archeological resources. Under the Ontario Heritage Act all archeological work in this Province must be licenced. Licencees must submit reports on their efforts and further the Act gives the Minister the power to designate archeological sites and to place Stop Work Orders on development on such sites.

Our Branch provides staff support to the Archeological Committee of the Ontario Heritage Foundation in this regard and under the Ontario Heritage Act the Foundation



advises the Minister concerning these responsibilities in archeology.

The Foundation also maintains a sizeable granting program for archeological projects and has been involved in the acquisition of property rights for particularly important archeological sites.

We have given you a map showing you the vast area north of 50 which our three regional archeologists in the north have to deal with. Each year each of us as regional archeologists work with historical planners on survey projects, special planning studies and in the service activity to government agencies, municipalities and the private sector and we also provide a permanent field presence. We also act as the Province's agency for the National Site Inventory which is coordinated by the National Museum of Canada in Ottawa and the site information obtained through all our activities is filed through our computer data bank in Toronto and in each Region and in Ottawa.

The Regional Archeologists in each Region regularly give talks to schools, community clubs and service organizations and aid local museums and historical societies. Specifically in this northwestern region I have been dealing with the Ministry of Natural Resources on such projects as the Lake of the Woods Development Plan, the Rainy Lake Development Plan, Sensitive Areas Files, Parker Park Reserve Inventories for Cultural Resources such as archeological sites and the Strategic Land Use Plan for northwestern Ontario.

A second example is our activity with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications where we inventory an average of twelve road corridors per year before the roads are built to resources. These are normally north of 50





roads to resources.

We are also currently assisting the Ministry of Natural Resources with Heritage Resource Inventories for the vast region encompassed by the West Patricia Land Use Plan.

I recognize this is a very brief overview of our Ministry's submission and through it I hoped that we could highlight perhaps the delivery component which does exist here in northern Ontario and north of 50 and for greater detail and insight I would refer you to the actual submission which you have before you.

I'm afraid my fellow Regional Managers in Indian Community Secretariat and Field Services Branch in Thunder Bay are both down with the flu, however, if you have any questions I can answer in my own field of expertise and perhaps some for them.

Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much, Mr. Reed.

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Mr. Reed. We will mark a copy of your written brief as Exhibit No.243.

---EXHIBIT NO.243:

Submission of Ministry of Culture & Recreation.

MR. LASKIN: Ladies and gentlemen, our next presentation is from the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association and will be made by Mr. Wilfred Wake, who is the President. Mr. Wake.



WILFRED WAKE

10 Mr. Commissioner, "on behalf of the Member Municipalities of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, I am pleased to submit our brief to the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment.

20 "This brief has been prepared by the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (N.O.M.A.) with assistance from a consultant to inform the Royal Commission on the background, evolution, future prospects, issues and concerns of communities north of the 50th parallel and also communities south of the 50th parallel which will be affected by actions and development north of the 50th.

30 "N.O.M.A. is an association of municipalities, including cities, towns, townships and improvement districts in the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay. It is 175,580 square miles in area, about 42.6% of the total area of the province. It has a fairly sparse population, however, with a total of only 195,000 people in the 47 organized municipalities that comprise N.O.M.A. membership.

40 Over the years, many studies and task forces have been addressed to Northern Ontario and its problems and potentials. The Royal Commission on the Northern Environment is viewed by some as 'just another study'. Justice Hartt



"has indicated, however, that this Commission has an open mind and wants to hear the views and feelings of the people, even if they have been stated before.

10 "About five years ago, the Government of Ontario announced that studies were being made to consider the harvesting of additional timber resources in Northwestern Ontario. Proposals were requested for the utilization of the timber in an area comprising 19,000 square miles north of the line between Red Lake and Pickle Lake. The Reed Paper Company responded to this request and proposed a forest products complex in the Ear Falls - Red Lake area. Originally, an Inquiry was to be conducted under the Environmental Assessment Act. However, on July 13th, 1977, the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment was created by an Order-in-Council. This 20 Royal Commission was given much broader terms of reference than was contemplated in the original inquiry.

30 "N.O.M.A. was established to provide a forum for discussion of common interests among the municipal officials of the organized municipalities in the three Districts, Kenora, Thunder Bay and Rainy River. One of its goals is to provide a single voice in negotiations with the Province. Through its membership of appointed and elected officials, N.O.M.A. 40 speaks for approximately 195,000 people; 11,000 of these are in the communities north of the





"50th parallel, in the following six municipalities:

- District of Balmertown
- Township of Ear Falls
- Improvement District of Nakina
- Improvement District of Pickle Lake
- Township of Red Lake
- Town of Sioux Lookout

"All of which are in the District of Kenora, except Nakina, which is in the District of Thunder Bay.

"The terms of reference for the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment specifically refers to development north of the 50th parallel and the interests and views of the people in municipalities north of the 50th. It is obvious, though, that there are other municipalities located near the 50th, or which act as processing centres for natural resources that were extracted or harvested north of it, and major service centres for the area north of 50°, will have a vital interest in new development and the management of industry and natural resources in the study area. It is felt, therefore, that N.O.M.A. is an organization that can give very valuable input to the Commission.

"Our brief sets out a brief historical background of the area represented by N.O.M.A., a detailed description of the municipalities located north of the 50th, the issues and con-



10 "cerns of the people in the N.O.M.A. area as  
perceived by their elected and appointed  
officials, and recommendations for further  
studies to answer some of the existing ques-  
tions and provide guidance for future action.  
One of the stated purposes for the Commission  
is to 'contribute to a better understanding  
of the specific nature of the north relative  
to the development and environmental assess-  
ment'. It is hoped that this brief will  
assist in achieving this goal.

20 "In our formal brief, we have listed  
for the Commission, a detailed summary of the  
opinions and issues identified by N.O.M.A.  
members. The information presented includes  
discussions on the life-style in the communi-  
ties in Northwestern Ontario, the problems  
faced by the residents and identifies certain  
30 issues for further consideration by the  
Commission. Subjects covered included  
education, health, communication facilities,  
transportation, work force and unemployment,  
housing, municipal services, social problems,  
existing industrial development and future  
40 potential, environmental concerns and financial  
and economic matters. This analysis includes a  
discussion on the role of the Royal Commission  
on the Northern Environment and its terms of  
reference.

"In connection with the role of the  
Royal Commission, it was determined that many



10 "member communities are not fully aware of the Commission's mandate. It is hoped that this brief which has been distributed to all our members, will help to resolve that problem. Members were asked to indicate the issues which they felt should be considered by the Royal Commission in the future. Those issues most often stated included:

- (1) Northern Development
- (2) Environmental Protection
- (3) Native People and Native Rights
- (4) Future Employment Opportunities

20 The majority of our member municipalities agree with the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment is needed at this time, but many included the comment that they hoped the Commission's report would result in positive action to the benefit of the north and provide a basis for ongoing study and improvement.

30 Our brief contains a further analysis of the questionnaire results by geographic areas. The responses were divided into three groups representing those communities lying north of the 50th parallel, a second group of communities who act as service areas or contain primary industry related to the natural resources lying north of the 50th parallel, and the third group of communities comprising those service centres that act as major focal points for the north and other municipalities situated close by.

40





10 "On November 19th, N.O.M.A. members attended a seminar in Thunder Bay to review the results of the questionnaire. Our brief includes a summary of the results of that workshop including a discussion of the major issues identified by our members. These issues include our concern related to economic and financial matters, social and cultural conditions, environmental concerns, and current government policies.

20 "At this time, I would like to read into the record, the conclusions and recommendations listed in our brief for the benefit of this meeting:

30 "N.O.M.A. anticipated that the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment will proceed with a more detailed investigation of the issues identified in this brief. Should the Commission consider advisable, N.O.M.A. would be pleased to participate in these further investigations. This participation could be carried out either directly with the Commission or through the Municipal Advisory Committee.

40 In considering the issues identified, N.O.M.A. has certain specific recommendations to make at this time, although it is recognized that some modification of these recommendations will result from further investigations and a better understanding of the issues involved.



"A) ECONOMIC & FINANCIAL ISSUES

"(1) New formulas must be established in order that residents and industries located in unorganized areas contribute their fair share to services provided at the expense of organized municipalities.

"(2) New formulas must be established to provide adequate revenues to organized municipalities to provide a minimum level of services to the public at costs consistent with those enjoyed by Southern Ontario municipalities. This minimum level in service should include roads, municipal services, health, education, cultural and recreational facilities.

"(3) A greater portion of the Provincial revenues directed to municipalities should be unconditional. Each municipality should be permitted to establish its own priorities beyond the level of minimum servicing standards.

"(4) Regulations with respect to mining taxes should be amended to permit tax write-offs to mining companies for social capital investment.

"(5) Local populations and municipalities should be permitted to participate in the negotiation process together with a government and industry in order to identify and to achieve trade-offs to the betterment of the local area.

"(6) More pressure should be applied to the Federal Government to negotiate for changes in international tariff agreements in order to eliminate



" the adverse effect on potential for further processing of raw materials in this country. Vivid examples of this exist in the Kimberly-Clark operation at Terrace Bay, the American Can operation at Marathon, and the Plywood operation at Atikokan. Many more examples exist in the mining industry.

"(7) There should be greater public awareness of the inequitable tariff arrangements which affect potential economic growth of this area.

"(8) More attention should be paid to the best use of natural resources and strategies which would encourage perpetual utilization of renewable resources. More research should be given by better utilization of the by-products of the mining industry including the production of crushed aggregates for construction purposes. More improvements are needed in timber harvesting procedures to ensure that the most efficient use is made of all the timber in a given cutting area and that unnecessary damage to immature trees is reduced.

"(9) Government policies with respect to the development of tourism should be directed to encourage that type of tourism which best benefits the local economy. Policies with respect to the development of summer cottage area should be more flexible as this has been identified as a major potential for





" revenue for this area.

10 "(10) Government policies with respect to the utilization of natural resources north of the 50th parallel should be directed in such a way as to reinforce the general economy of the area and, at the same time contribute to the stability of all of Northwestern Ontario. New development should be evaluated on a number of factors including the manner in which it will contribute to the local economy, reduce freight rates, and provide more link road connections in Northern Ontario to encourage tourism. A full appraisal of an industry's contribution to the life-style of the local population and its impact on existing municipalities should be made.

20  
30 "(11) Government programs, designed to ease unemployment or to stimulate the local economy, should be designed to meet the needs and priorities of municipalities. Government assistance should be directed towards block funding of municipal projects or to help establish permanent jobs in the private or public sector.

40 "B) SOCIAL & CULTURAL ISSUES

"(1) Establish a vehicle to permit full communication and co-operation between the three levels of government and the native people. Identify and determine solutions for problems based on the complete understanding of the situation by all parties.



"(2) Provide secondary education, at least to the grade 10 level, locally, in all municipalities.

"(3) Provide some vocational training, consistent with local needs, throughout the area, perhaps on a rotating basis.

"(4) Co-ordinate vocational training programs on a Federal-Provincial basis to provide the best mutual benefits to populations in organized and unorganized municipalities as well as to the native bands.

"(5) Restructure the Wintario and other grant programmes to recognize the higher construction costs, lack of accessibility to corporate donations, and smaller populations which prevail throughout Northwestern Ontario.

"(6) Provide incentives to encourage the implementation of cable television or additional local transmission facilities to expand radio and television programming throughout Northwestern Ontario.

"(7) Revise the criteria with respect to the delivery of social services to ensure that the minimum level of service delivered is reasonably consistent with local needs.

"(8) Allow the municipalities more authority with respect to the administration of welfare.

"C) ENVIRONMENTAL

"(1) Government policy with respect to environ-



" mental control measure should be more flexible. Controls should be specific to individual sites and developments and should incorporate local input into decisions which will affect the life-style of the people of the area.

10 "(2) Planning policies should largely represent the goals and objectives of local municipalities and residents of the area. Policies related to servicing, housing and land use should be formulated taking into account the particular situation of each local area in addition to the  
20 general situation with respect to population, remote location and severe climate which prevails throughout Northern Ontario.

"(3) The establishment, make-up, operation, and area under jurisdiction of local planning boards, should be largely the product of the wishes of the residents of the local area, based on  
30 general goals and objectives established by the Province.

"(4) Ensure that the residue of resource extraction industries including tailings, tailing areas, gravel pits, mine shafts, headframes, and abandoned dwellings and industrial buildings are removed upon the windingup of the activity.  
40

"(5) Permit controlled burning, as an option to sanitary landfill, where this represents little hazard to the environment.

"(6) Provide better public education of environmental matters to permit a better understanding of the





" acceptable levels of contamination, and other trade-offs, related to industrial activity.

"(7)Request that Federal, Provincial and private landfill operations comply with the same regulations as those which apply to municipalities.

"On behalf of the N.O.M.A. Executive and our Member Municipalities, I wish to thank you for the funding from your Commission which has made the preparation of this brief possible.

"As representatives of the residents of Northwestern Ontario, we look forward, with interest, to your interim report and would be very pleased to offer further assistance to the Commission, during the Formal Hearings, should this be desired."

Thank you.

THE COMMISSION: Thank you very much, Mr. Wake, and I hope you express my thanks also to the other member municipalities for the brief. Thank you very much, sir.

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Mr. Wake. A copy of your presentation will be Exhibit 244 in our record.

---EXHIBIT NO.244:

Submission of Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association.

MR. LASKIN: I should say that the presentation by the Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association which is listed as No.3 on the Schedule will be made later on this afternoon.



Now, we will move on to the fifth presentation by the Northwestern Commercial Fisheries Federation and speaking on behalf of the Federation will be Mrs. Alice Longe, who is a executive member of the Board of Directors.

MRS. ALICE LONGE

Mr. Justice Hartt, members of the Audience.

"It is a privilege to speak to this Commission today. Sometimes ninety-nine times out of a hundred, either the brief doesn't catch the interest of the Commissioner, or the brief does not speak clearly, or even a Commissioner somehow doesn't get the message. I hope today all of us 'get the message' of what our brief is saying, so Northwestern Ontario with all its rigours and hardships will be a better place to live in in centuries to come.

"Mr. Justice, I am here representing the Northwestern Commercial Fisheries Federation, an organization serving the commercial fishermen. I am an executive of that body.

"Commercial fishermen, since the turn of the century, have been one of the most respected peoples of the northern community, respected for their hard work, for their initiative, for their rugged nature. When we throw a social, we have peoples from every walk of life in attendance. We put on no airs. We live year round and make a contribution to our economy.



"But of late, the picture is changing. American interests have come in and as they have done through the entire world, they exploit not only what they have paid for with their big rolls of bills, but they cannot seem to rest until they have dominated everyone else. The Good Book says, 'Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house nor his goods.' The American campowner has never heard that Truth. The Campowner appears in the Miner News or on CJRL and tells everyone what has to happen to our Natural Resources. He thinks of himself as God's gift to Canadian nature. We say 'Yankee, go home' and it is heard throughout the world. Peoples throughout the world know of his exploitations. The people of Sudbury understand what I am saying. They hate him for his bombast. They hate him for his philosophy of 'Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.' And yet we have a great disgust, we have an even greater frustration, we have an even greater hatred for our own government, a government that is so conceited, so pompous and so proud that when the American campowner says, Jump, they jump, even when as the old Swede said 'There is no place to stand.' If the head of Natural Resources were here today, he would say, 'Balderdash.'

"As a fitting sequel to the worst of our fears, which fears have been expressed many times at various meetings by the Fisher-





"men organization held to deal with this problem of setting quotas, the government proved to us once more and in dramatic fashion that

10 "the meetings that were called by Ministry to help officialdom make meaningful decisions that would accommodate at least part of the democratic process of our government by the people was just so much 'window dressing.' As we all agreed at our meetings, called by the fishermen, the meetings called by government to gain public input are a waste of time and a waste of taxpayer's money, as well as an insult to the intelligence of our people. You see, 20 the decision had already been influenced and sealed by the 'wise man in the far east.'

30 "fair play for each person is no longer the motto of our government. It depends on who you are or who you know or what you contribute. The fishermen unanimously asked for an equal distribution of the resources. The government set the quotas about as unequal as they cared. They government will give you reasons, but they are as unfundamental as most of their scruples.

40 "out of any situation, no matter how trying, no matter how unscrupulous, must come some learning. The fishermen think that that approach as used by the Indian community was by far the best. In fact, we hear the slogan by many people in the north. Where the slogan used to read, 'Go west, young man', it



10 "now reads, 'Go Native'. To explain somewhat:  
The Ministry called a meeting at one of the  
reserves. The Greenshirts were out in all  
their finery. The only catch was the only  
ones in attendance was the Ministry's  
officials. The native people decided not to  
attend. We understand that finally one  
Indian chap appeared to deliver a statement  
as to what the Indian people are going to do.

20 "Perhaps that is the direction modern  
society is going. Do your own thing. Let the  
government do its own thing. Perhaps, some  
day, participatory government will be the  
result.

30 "So if you hear the fishermen adopt  
the slogan, 'Go Native' there is not the  
slightest derision in the principle, that has  
to work in superior fashion to what the govern-  
ment used as its principle, remember publicity  
stated, 'Whoever can make the most noise will  
get favourable decision.' That principle is  
the farce.

40 "Mr. Justice Hartt, I ask you to be  
a just judge and judge for yourself. The last  
few Campowners' meetings saw no parking signs  
put up outside the Campowners' meeting because  
you couldn't find a parking spot for all the  
'green cars and trucks' in attendance. The  
government's motto, 'Keep Ontario green'  
applies only to Campowners, American-dominated  
Campowners' Meetings, and what about Commercial



10 "Fishermen's meetings. Has Mr. Bernier ever attended one of our meetings, although he was invited five times? No, never. The last time we invited Mr. Bernier, or the local head of Lands and Forests or the head of the Fish Division or whoever, there wasn't one green car that showed up at our annual meeting. Finally little Peter walked in ... His words of assurance during the meeting were: 'I don't know why. I don't know why.'

20 "And some of the fishermen wouldn't dare say what I am saying here today, because for tomorrow they may be asked to move a dock because the Ministry needs the site or lose a few thousand pounds of fish quota, or have their whitefish degraded as continentals.

30 "Mr. Justice, would you like to raise a Canadian family, an Ontario family in such an environment? Would you like to live a life of fear, of humiliation or of frustration, where your own government ministry is so powerful that it has to answer to no one except the one who has money?

40 "You must love your country to do what you are doing. When you hear what I have said, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. We will stand by this statement and we can give you proof if you need it.

"We thank you for the opportunity to address this body.





"We will be more thankful if you can save our industry, the Commercial Fishing Industry, from its doom day - it's gone by - January 1st of this year. The American Camp-owner has the guillotine ready and the Natural Resources will deliver the eulogy."

Thank you.

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Mrs. Longe. We will mark a copy of your brief as Exhibit 245.

---EXHIBIT NO.245:

Submission of Northwestern  
Commercial Fisheries Federation.

MR. LASKIN: Our next scheduled presentation is from the Lake of the Woods Pow-wow Club by Mr. Joe Morrison.

JOE MORRISON

"Mr. Justice Hartt, members of the inquiry, brothers.

"Thank you for taking the time to hear what we have to say today.

"It is our understanding that, among other things, you are interested in the human and social aspects of proposed development. This is of real concern to us, too.

"But, first let us introduce ourselves.

"We are members of the Lake of the



10 "Woods Pow-wow Club. We are a group of people who meet around a drum. We participate in religious ceremonials and dancing, and gain inner strength from the support we receive from each other. An entire family is active in our group, from the youngest to our elders. It is not the Indian way to keep membership lists but at some of our festivals we have over 300 participating.

20 "We receive no funding or government grants for our normal operation. Free will offerings or raffles and bingos are the ways we raise our monies.

30 "No one is paid any salary or receives any stipend of any kind for the work we do. We aid people who have misfortune, like a house fire or who are unable to meet a fuel oil bill in midwinter and no one else will help them and things like this. A lot of people turn to us, but usually we don't talk about these things.

40 "Since we are headquartered in Kenora, and have members and contact with people in 23 reserves that come to Kenora for shopping and services, we are very familiar with life and conditions as they exist in an area that has been and still is heavily dependent upon the natural resources being exploited - mainly by large corporations.

"We are those people who are not greatly benefitted from this exploitation. The grand promises and visions made by those



10 "who prepare to enter and 'develop' an area -  
if "develop" is the correct word to use -  
which we now question. These visions and  
grand promises made by these people before  
getting their license to exploit, seem to  
fade like the rainbow does as the sun dis-  
appears behind the cloud - gradually, but  
definitely. There are many clouds, Mr.  
Justice Hartt, that seem to come between us  
and the promised 'Pot of Gold' at the end  
of the rainbow. In fact, we feel that it  
20 isn't only the natural resources of timber  
and like that are being exploited in our  
area by the large corporations. We not  
only do not find that promised pot of gold  
when we search, and we do search, but we  
find that we, the people, Anishinabe, are  
one of the things they feel can be shoved  
aside as they rush in to take away and  
30 exploit what has been some of our heritage.  
Nothing alive can escape the touch and  
presence of a large corporation moving into  
an area. The trees, the people, the stones,  
the air, the water, all things. Yes, even  
what you consider dead cannot escape its  
40 suffocating presence when it moves in.

"We, who are members of the Lake of  
the Woods Pow-wow Club, are not those who sit  
on Town Council, have jobs at the mill, run  
our own businesses, have bank accounts, use  
Chargex or MasterCard, fly first class, or  
who are even teachers of our own children.





10 "No, rather many of us are those often reported  
in statistics. We are the nameless and for-  
gotten, although we are often called names  
and titles that we hear and dislike. We are  
often seen but never really heard. We talk -  
in many ways we try to communicate with you,  
but are never really understood. We feel that  
we are often used by those who have a pet pro-  
ject they would like to promote, then are  
quickly forgotten and overlooked when their  
20 need of us no longer exists. As again now, at  
the present time. 'Look' it is stated, 'look  
at the employment it will give to the Native  
people of the area.' 'Look, at how many  
benefits it will give to them.' We see  
through that as we've been through it many  
times before. We know what will happen. We  
know what jobs, if any, will be offered to us.  
We know what 'benefits' will really be ours as  
30 a result of what is being proposed by Reed.

"The reason, therefore, one of the  
main reasons for the Lake of the Woods Pow-  
wow Club is that we feel the need to support  
one another to merely exist. To whom can we  
turn when it is after the hour of 5 o'clock?  
10 When those whose jobs are dependent upon us  
go home to their paved streets, with street  
lighting, and comfortable homes and with the  
police to see that they are not disturbed.  
Their 'problems', meaning us, are out of  
sight and mind. Are we to make sure that  
we have no hurts after 5 o'clock? So they



"will not be inconvenienced. Or is it only the police or the ambulance to whom we can turn - that will respond to our call after hours? Must we be either lawbreakers or casualties before we are noticed?

"So we of the Lake of the Woods Pow-wow Club meet to give support to one another.

"There is a story of a little Dutch boy who discovered a leak in a dike which threatened to get large and would destroy many homes and lives and kept his finger in the hole until help came. Sometimes we feel like that little boy, although it seems to us that the hole is getting larger, huge cracks are appearing in the wall, and we are no longer able to plug the leak. It also seems to us that there is very little sign that help is coming. That anyone hears our cries for help. Tell us, Mr. Justice Hartt, tell us plainly - is help coming? Or is even this whole Inquiry part of a game where nothing changes except the players and things keep getting worse for us?

"We do not like the conditions that many of us find ourselves in. We did not plan to live on handouts, called Welfare, nor do we want to do so today. We do not choose to have our children roam the streets of Kenora to get into trouble and insulted. We do not choose to be burdens or problems to anybody. We do not choose to have our children see us as



"people of no-account. Nor do we believe that we are largely responsible for our present condition.

"We did not know, when the Treaties were signed, that you would later, without consulting us, choose to regulate the water in the rivers according to the needs of hydro, not our needs - ignoring the natural rise and fall of the water according to the seasons and the rainfall that the Great Spirit provides. And thereby effectively destroying much of our wild rice supply. Our food supply. Is Welfare really payment-in-kind for what was taken away? Destroyed! It was not put into the Treaties that Hydro had that right. We did not know that businesses meeting their needs, not ours, their need for more profit, would put mercury and other pollutants into our waters making the fish unfit for human consumption. Although we are told that it is just unfit for Indians to eat - and others - sportsmen - can go on fishing and eating, but that right to so pollute our waters with poison was not written in our Treaties which we signed.

"Nor was it written that large corporations would be given the right to destroy the huge forests that are the home of our game and fur-bearing animals. Do those who give such privileges to these large corporations expect the deer and the moose to live and eat the food they find on our 2 X 4 reserves? Does the cor-





10 "poration really expect the river they have  
polluted (on their property - in their mills)  
- to suddenly cleanse itself when it hits the  
edge of their property? Or when it comes to  
the Reserve boundary. How foolish to believe  
that I or any corporation has no responsibility  
for my actions beyond my fenced property.

20 "It is also very clear to us that the  
effects of the proposed development by Reed  
will not be confined to the particular tract of  
land they ask for. Nor will it be confined to  
a particular line drawn on a map - such as  
above the 50th parallel. We are also concerned  
because we believe there must be some alterna-  
30 tive method of caring for our resources -  
including people - our children and our children  
yet to be born - other than what has been tried  
up until now. We are worried about these things.  
Because we are living and experiencing things  
which are not good.

40 "The recent (1977) report by Giesbrecht  
and Brown of the Ontario Addiction Research  
Foundation entitled 'Alcohol Problems in North-  
western Ontario - Preliminary Report' states:  
'The Kenora District was found to have the  
highest per capita alcohol consumption, the  
highest rate of arrests and violations for  
liquor offences, the highest rate of alcohol  
diagnosed hospital discharges, and the highest  
rate of deaths due to accidents, poisonings  
and violence. For example between 1971 and



"1974, 24% of the deaths in the District were due to accidental or violent cases, compared to 9% for the Province.' Just one more observation from that Report - as you can read the whole thing for yourself: 'In 1969, the alcohol consumption of the Kenora District was 16% above the provincial average. In 1974 - just 5 years later, it was 34% above the provincial average.'

"Mr. Justice Hartt, these brief statements from this one report give you some indication of what many of us know firsthand and which you can never fully understand because you have never experienced it as we have. These are not just statistics to us. Many of these are our own brothers and sisters, children and members of our own families. All of this is carefully documented in yet another report which we ourselves and others worked on, detailing specifically this Kenora community. It is entitled 'While People Sleep'. And, unfortunately, these things are continuing down to today, Mr. Justice Hartt. And we do not want to see some of these same mistakes and conditions, hurts, repeated over and over again in other areas. This is the reason we take this opportunity to speak to you in this way.

"We hear of attempts being made - with some success - 'Up North' that is, at Big Trout, Sandy Lake, Bearskin Lake, Muskrat



10 "Dam, Angling Lake, Pikangikum, Wunnumin Lake,  
Kingfisher Lake, Round Lake, Fort Severn, and  
other settlements - places where our people  
still have enough control over their lives  
and communities to ban the bringing in of  
alcohol in their communities. This single  
act has greatly enhanced the quality of life  
for countless people. What will happen to  
our brothers if this "so-called development"  
takes place up there and others make these  
decisions for them? We know what will happen.  
Liquor will flow and there will be no way of  
20 stopping it. Can it in truth be called  
"development" when the conditions of life are  
worsened rather than bettered for the majority  
of those who live in the area immediately  
surrounding? We know what will happen. In  
fact, those who are choosing to ignore the  
wishes of these northern communities we men-  
30 tioned and are bootlegging alcohol are the  
'big shots' of outside control agencies and  
they are causing great problems to community  
leaders who are trying to deal responsibly  
with a difficult social problem. Where is  
the justice in that, Mr. Justice Hartt?  
Can't they get along without their addiction -  
their problem for as long as they are on our  
Reserves? Which is usually as soon as the  
next plane leaves anyway. But our people up  
north can speak for themselves in that  
matter.

"Some of us were members of several



"Indian-owned and operated small corporations in this area, largely engaged in cutting and marketing of pulpwood. We took pride in our work and what we could accomplish. There was definite improvement in our families and on our Reserves as we began to feed and clothe our own families. No one but us can tell you the joy and uplift we knew and experienced knowing that we were, in some real sense, making our own way.

"We also know what it is like to struggle to become 'viable' when the best timber of the area is reserved for large corporations and you are assigned allotments that have been released by them only because they could not harvest them profitably. In fact, some of us were expected to be happy when we were given a tract to 'clean up' where the company had already gone through with their work crews and machines. And we understand that some of this type of thinking is already taking place in the proposed development area as Reed has reduced the size of the territory asked for because of one large section was discovered to be 'unsuitable'. If the pattern established here and elsewhere holdstrue, undoubtedly that area found unsuitable for the Reed Corporation will be the area assigned to an Indian company. Then there will be those who will be quick to judge all the Indians and point the finger because it





"failed to become 'viable'.

"Mr. Justice Hartt, these are some of the conditions that are of concern to us. We find that we are not in control of our lives in any way. The police become our enemies. The bootlegger is seen as our friend, and the water and the railroad tracks beckon as a quick and welcome release. And we hate it. We hate it and hate ourselves and take out our anger on each other. Jail and the hospital, receiving home and training school and foster home become the common experiences shared by our children, not college or university. Not work or homes that we are proud of. Not a community of Kenora which we are proud to call our home.

"And please don't recommend another agency. Already we have over 50 agencies who are supposed to be here to assist us. Assist us?!! They rather confuse us and live off us. And they seem to 'work' with paper - not with us - shuffling us between one agency and another, and then complain about how difficult they find us and our problems. We suggest they look to themselves and some of the things they are doing to us that are causing some of our problems not making them better.

"We would like to be heard. For instance, when we ask for more inquests, because we are dissatisfied with the number



10 "and the way they are conducted. Why are they afraid to conduct these and really dig into the causes of some of these deaths and 'accidents'? Is cover-up really the best way of dealing with any trouble spot? And when we ask these things we don't want silence and no action or some vague reason given which is evidently a suitable answer to your reasoning - not ours.

20 "When we are told that the fish is poison and 'don't eat it' we expect that to hold true for everybody - not just Indians. We don't expect to see others permitted to eat. Doesn't poison effect all people the same? Again, the 'reasons' given don't seem to us to make sense and are more of a cover-up for some other, hidden motive. We used to call it - speaking with forked tongue. We know the tourist dollar is of some importance in our area. We know that industry is too. But are either more important than lives?

30 "We understand that these first meetings of your Inquiry are only to receive some of our concerns. And, that in the next two or three years we will be able to meet again and speak further and in more detail so that some action can be taken to help us and also to avoid making these same mistakes up north in an area where our brothers live."

40 Thank you.



10 THE COMMISSIONER: Thanks very much, Mr. Morrison. You have raised a very pointed question about the Commission itself and I assure you that that question - I've put that question to myself also many times and I'm hoping to determine some sense about that during the course of these preliminary hearings. Thanks very much, Mr. Morrison.

MR. LASKIN: Thanks, Mr. Morrison. We will mark a copy of your brief as our next exhibit, 246.

20 ---EXHIBIT NO.246:

Submission of the Lake of the Woods Pow-wow Club.

MR. LASKIN: I believe we've got some hot coffee up there and I would suggest it would be appropriate time that we take a ten or fifteen minute coffee break.

---Brief Recess.

30 ---On resuming:

MR. LASKIN: Ladies and gentlemen, could we please resume our hearings!

Our next scheduled presentation is from the Federation of Anglers and Hunters and will be made by Mr. Lee Doyle. Mr. Doyle.

40 LEE DOYLE

Honourable Mr. Justice Patrick Hartt and the Royal Commission.

"My name is Lee Doyle. I am a charter





10 "member and a past president of the Lake of the Woods Gun Club; I'm an active member of the Northwestern Ontario Conservation Federation, and Environmental Committee Chairman for the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce this Commission to our affiliate organizations in the areas of concern.

20 "The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters is an approximately 17,000-member organization in Ontario. It is made up of over 275 affiliate clubs, fifty of which are in the north. Twelve of these clubs form Zone I, the Northwestern Ontario Conservation Federation. Zone I is bounded by the Manitoba border to the west, White River to the east, with the northern boundary being undefined, places Zone I Clubs directly amidst this area of concern. In addition, we are working in close co-operation with our national affiliate, The Canadian Wildlife Federation, and an organization of better than 30 320,000 members.

40 "Our members are vitally interested in conservation, and, unlike most of the other wilderness-user organizations, have a reputation for unselfish recommendations to the Ministry on conservation measures. To quote Frank S. Miller, our Minister of Natural Resources: ..." - and I quote ...

"...much of what we have achieved over the past 50 years is due to the



" 'dialogue which began in 1928 between the former Department of Lands and Forests and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and which carries on today with the Ministry of Natural Resources.'

10 "We are well aware of the special nature of the North relative to its development and use, and feel we can contribute meaningful and provide very valuable input to this Commission over the next three years. We pledge our co-  
20 operation and invite you to call on us for information, views, recommendations, validations, etc. at any time. We also ask that we be kept fully informed on any matters of interest to us as conservationists, and most important, as anglers and hunters. We expect to be holding meetings to clarify the feelings of our membership as various important issues arise.

30 "The existing renewable resource information available for this area is sparse and antiquated. We understand that the Forest and Wildlife inventory now being conducted by the Ministry of Natural Resources will be made available to us as soon as possible. We

10 expect to apply the expertise available through our organizations, including the advice of the Field Biologist presently employed by Zone 5 of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, to do a comprehensive study of the whole area in



"question in order that we may make a substantial contribution to the final report of this Commission, and to that of the West Patricia District Land Use Plan.

10 "We are convinced that meaningful management is the key issue in the North and we are not mistaking preservation for conservation - the preservationists would exclude all use except possibly their own. We have seen many bad decisions in the past that have been made, with the best of intentions, in the name of preservation and/ 20 or conservation. We lean toward the concept of wisely managed multiple use of all our renewable resources. The feasibility of this concept has been aptly proven in other areas. The key is the proposed forest and game management objectives. We would like to be instrumental in formulating those 30 objectives.

"We will avoid involvement in controversy over Native land claims, development site locations, economic feasibility, etc. except where they may affect our future as conservationists, anglers, and 40 hunters.

"Our areas of concern are:

Forest and wildlife regeneration, management, and control.

The immediate and future effect of any development on wildlife and their habitat, both land and water.



" All possible forms of pollution.

Road access control, game and fish  
regulatory measures, and enforcement,

and

All wilderness, National and Provincial  
park proposals in this area.

"We welcome this Commission to our  
communities, and we look forward to working  
with your members in the future to clarify  
our particular needs, and hopefully, to pro-  
vide you with some meaningful positive input  
for your final report to the Ministry.

"Attached, please find a mailing  
list of the key people within our Organiza-  
tions who would appreciate obtaining any  
pertinent information you may deem advisable  
to forward during the course of your inquiry."

Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much for  
your offer of assistance, Mr. Doyle, and we will be in touch  
with you later. May I have those names --

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Mr. Doyle. We will  
mark a copy of your brief as Exhibit 247.

---EXHIBIT NO.247:

Submission of The Ontario  
Federation of Anglers and Hunters  
Incorporated, with attached list.

MR. LASKIN: Our next presentation will be  
from the Ontario Human Rights Commission and will be made by  
Mr. Bromley Armstrong, who is one of the Commissioners of





the O.H.R.C.

BROMLEY ARMSTRONG

10 Mr. Commissioner, also appearing on behalf of the Ontario Human Rights Commission is Bill Jackson from our Kenora office.

20 "The Ontario Human Rights Commission appreciates your invitation to present some of our observations which might aid you and your Commission in conducting your most important deliberation on future development north of the 50th parallel, as it relates to the social, economic, and cultural conditions that influence man and the life of man or a community.

30 "The Ontario Human Rights Commission administers the Ontario Human Rights Code, and it is responsible for furthering the 'public policy' that all people in Ontario are equal in dignity and rights without regards to race, colour, creed, age, sex, marital status, nationality, ancestry or place of origin.

40 "In the years since the Commission began working in northern communities, our staff have found that this part of our Province appears to have been developed without full regard for the spirit of this principle.

"All too often, development in Northern Ontario has taken place without sufficient consideration for its impact on the environment and in turn, on those people who have traditionally



10 "drawn their livelihood from it. The Indian and Metis people north of the 50th parallel are only two of a number of groups who are concerned that poorly planned industrial and resource development will destroy their environment and thereby erode their life-style.

20 "In the more southern areas of Northern Ontario, Native peoples are able to cite severe economic losses to their communities because of hunting, fishing, trapping, guiding and wild rice harvesting have been undermined by the destruction of land, lakes and rivers. Near Kenora, for example, entire communities have lost their principal sources of income, but their members have received neither adequate compensation, nor workable occupational or economic alternatives.

30 "In the result, Native peoples have found themselves ill-equipped to compete occupationally, economically and socially with those who constitute the majority cultural groups. Past disadvantages have denied them the opportunity to develop their skills to participate in the new social, economic and cultural milieu. The resulting disparities in material well-being, and self and group esteem between the Native and majority cultures, have contributed significantly to the high rates of crime, alcoholism and family breakdown in  
40 Native communities.



10 "Moreover, many Native people believe that their own efforts and achievements cannot aid in their acceptance by the majority, despite their best efforts of their organizations to build solidarity, to re-affirm faith in Native values, and to develop innovative social programmes.

20 "The people living in the remote part of Northern Ontario are aware that these problems in the south and are determined that their communities will not suffer a similar outcome from new economic developments.

30 "They recognize that isolation from the mainstream has exacted a price in terms of material gain and the availability of the services which others find commonplace. But they also recognize that lack of development has helped to protect their independence and cultural integrity.

40 "It would be beyond the area of our expertise, to recommend whether or not any further development should take place north of the 50th parallel or where it should occur. We maintain, however, that any new development must be planned with the fullest consideration for the human rights, dignity, and social economical well-being of those individuals, groups and communities whose lives will be or may be touched by it.

"Statistics paint a bleak portrait





10 "of life chances in Northern Ontario. Housing is woefully substandard and lack the most basic amenities. Over 80% of the Indian people live on income that is below the poverty level, and its primary source of social assistance and life expectancy is eight years below non-Natives. The number of violent deaths is three times the national average, and Indians comprise 5% of our population, but make up as much as 50% of the prison population at any given time. The average Indian student quits school at the end of Grade IX.

20 "Native people and their leaders want to know if development north of the 50th parallel is going to address itself to these facts or to make things worse.

30 "It is the responsibility of the Ontario Human Rights Commission via the legislation it administers, to address such conditions, when they are found to be the result of discrimination and prejudice.

40 "When the Ontario Human Rights Code was first enacted in 1962, people generally felt that discrimination took place because of conscious and overt acts against individuals. It was believed that the Commission could fulfill the mandate by resolving individual complaints and educating people in the principle of equality of opportunity. In recent years, however, the most pervasive discrimination against particular groups has tended to



10 "originate from unconscious and seemingly inoffensive, if not neutral practices. Even when they are not inflicted in bad faith, these practices are detrimental to equality of opportunities as were the overt and deliberate forms of discrimination of 15 years ago.

20 "These practices tend to perpetuate the discrimination effects of past inequalities, and they work a cumulative disadvantage on the individuals even though overt acts of discrimination may decline. Discrimination need not be conscious or deliberate to have adverse effects on minority groups.

30 "The Code has provided effective remedy for those protected groups who have complained of discrimination in housing, and access to services and facilities. Our northern officers are cognizant, however, that the complaints we receive are only a small percentage of discrimination that actually occurs. We know that many Native people have grown wary of government and are distrustful of the law.

40 "Our largest single complaint category in Northern Ontario is the denial of public services and facilities to Native people. The largest part of the Commission's complaint handled in the north in 1977 is to obtain for Native people the simple right to a room in a hotel, a meal in a restaurant or



"a beer in a bar. These are rights that are now taken for granted among minorities in Southern Ontario.

10 "Nonetheless, with the continuing support we receive from the Treaty organizations, Band Councils, OMNSIA, the Friendship Centres, etc. we are making inroads in these types of discrimination.

20 "In employment, however, discrimination continues to exclude Natives categorically from a wide range of jobs. The discrimination is inherent within the system and is directed against racial and ethnic groups; it frequently has little to do with individual shortcomings or isolated acts of exclusion.

30 "A Native person may apply for work and loses the competition because of lack of educational qualifications or relevant experience. Here, the discrimination is frequently due to a non-job-related educational requirement, more important, however, is the fact that the Native applicant has been denied equality of access to the educational and training opportunities enjoyed by his white counterpart.

40 "Where occupational experience is concerned, many employers fail to recognize that most Native peoples are, for the first time, trying to enter the labour force and may never have held a full-time or permanent employment in an industrial or commercial



"setting.

"There has been a long-standing observable pattern of unequal access to education, social and employment opportunities that has worked against minorities and women, but, which in turn, have favoured their white male counterpart. Native people are aware of this disparity and in order to avoid rejection, they are reluctant to approach firms with few or no Native employees. Many northern employers tell us that they have never had occasion to hire a member of any minority group, because none has ever applied. We have also been told, when it has been pointed out that the firm is located near an untapped pool of potential labour, that it had never dawned upon them that they could assist in remedying the situation. They thought Indians just never wanted to work. Why else would they all be on Welfare? Accordingly, many Native workers find themselves restricted to a very narrow spectrum of the labour market.

"Faced with these types of situations, the Native applicant cannot seek protection from the formal protection of the Ontario Human Rights Code. These Sections of the Code cannot address structural discrimination and inequality of opportunity, because it assumes that individuals are competitive in the labour force and enjoy equal access to employment, education and housing.





10 "The situation will not be remedied overnight. Nonetheless, the Commission believes that long range development strategies must take into account the social, economic and cultural implication for those persons who are directly affected by them. Comprehensive planning is not manifestly seen to be undertaken by employers or government, and this baffles most northerners, Native and non-Native alike.

20 "Time and again, people in northern communities are going to tell you that their anger and frustration at the overlapping complexity of roles, functions, mandates, jurisdictions and responsibilities of the public and private agencies they encounter. At times, they even believe that no one is accountable or responsible for the addressing of a particular need and at other times, three, four or more agencies appear to be competing to provide the same service.

40 "The difficulty has partly arisen through lack of information on the availability and purpose of various programmes and services, partly because of poor communications and co-ordination among agencies providing similar or complementary needs, and partly because an agency in implementing policy that make sense in Toronto or Ottawa just does not fit the particular needs and circumstances of the north. To a large measure, as the government has recognized by the appointment of your Commission,



"the difficulty arises because of the absence of a coherent and comprehensive policy with sensitivity to local and regional needs.

"If we can make but one suggestion for your framing of this policy, it is this:

"Any development of the area north of the 50th parallel must work towards removing discriminatory barriers against the people who live in this area. It must ensure that all the residents of this part of the Province are afforded an equal opportunity to enjoy the benefits which would accrue from such development.

"In advancing this principle, we wish to make it clear that we do not seek an advantageous position for any particular group. We seek equality of opportunity for the members of any group regardless of race, colour, creed, age, sex, marital status, nationality, ancestry or place of origin.

"Nonetheless, we recognize that a full two-thirds of the population of this area are Native people and remedial measures are necessary if they are to achieve equal footing to overcome past disadvantages.

"In future planning, more thought and effort must be devoted to the social impact of economic and resource development. It is naive to assume that the social problem Native peoples encounter exists separately and apart from



"economic factors. Meaningful employment opportunities for northern residents would greatly contribute to the alleviation of many of the social problems they experience.

"Native leadership itself will tell you that their people require a viable economic base in order to sustain their culture. They will also tell you, emphatically, that they are not prepared to opt for economic security at the cost of losing their culture. In their own parlance, if it means becoming an 'apple' - red on the outside and white on the inside - in order to succeed in their own homeland, they want no part of it. They suggest, and logically so, that new economic or resource development must be compatible with their values and lifestyles. If that could be the accepted premise, they are prepared to negotiate as equals towards the mutual improvement and betterment of their people through economic means.

"In this process of negotiation, the Ontario Human Rights Commission may have a fruitful role to provide by the Code's Section 6 (a) of this Act recognizes the need for special employment programmes to remedy the adverse effect of past discrimination in education, training and career development.

"Section 6 (a) of the Code states:  
'notwithstanding the provisions of this Part, the Commission may, upon such conditions or limitations and





" 'subject to revocation or suspension, approve in writing any special plan or program by the Crown, any agency thereof, any person to increase the employment of members of a group or class of persons because of race, creed, colour, age, sex, marital status, nationality or place of origin of the group or class of persons.'

"This Section of the code recognizes the need for corrective employment practices to improve the competitive position of people currently under-represented or under-utilized in the labour force. We cannot think of any area where this provision could be used to better advantage than in Northern Ontario where statistics tell us that Native people work an average only of 5.5 months of the year; they are ghettoized within a narrow spectrum of the labour force; they are subject to higher unemployment rates than non-Natives, and their participation rate in the labour force is far below that of non-Natives.

"Section 6 (a), merit is still defined according to job requirements and employers' needs, but demonstration of competence and experience according to usual assessment criteria is recognized as not possible for many minority candidates who have never been afforded competitive opportunity.



"The Section recognizes that it is pointless to proclaim that the rules of the "footrace" must be equal for all, when some groups are already 100 yards behind. It provides an opportunity for those groups to catch up, maintain an equal footing and to achieve true equality of opportunity in employment. It is a social policy which, if improvised under careful, controlled situation, can change the perception of members of a group that they will be denied employment, training and promotional opportunities in the present, because they have been denied them in the past.

"The implications of such special employment programmes to assist Native people may require such practical measures as planning for special transportation to combat adverse weather conditions and long distances from home to the job, actual recruiting Native people through their own media and with the help of their own organizations, special training courses sponsored by private industry and government to meet the need for specialized skills, the introduction of flexible or special working hours, long-term career planning, and job sharing.

"Also worthy of consideration is the idea of contract compliance. Should development occur, spin-off projects may arise such as road construction, railways, utilities,



10 "housing, and the like. Contracts for such projects might include a compliance clause making discrimination illegal. Enforcement would ensure that local residents would have equal opportunity for employment on such projects.

20 "In summary, the Commission believes that efforts made in northern development strategies in the past have contributed to growth of numerous social and economic problems for Northern Native communities. Accordingly, every effort should be made to avoid similar problems in the future. The Commission is not in a position to advise the Royal Commission as to whether or where development ought to occur. However, future development could well undermine the material and social life of Native communities unless adequate and sensitive mechanisms are created to enable their participation in its economic benefits.

30  
0 Such mechanisms will require social development, and supply resources and economic development in the area. In the area of economic development, special employment programmes and contract compliance strategies should be employed to ensure equality of opportunity, and finally, all development which will affect Native people should not occur without their full consultation and support.



"The Ontario Human Rights Commission wish to thank the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment for this opportunity to submit its observations and recommendations in this area."

Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr. Armstrong.

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong, I'm wondering whether the provisions of Section 6 (a) of the Code which you referred us to have ever been utilized before by the Commission in your experience?

MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes, we have used this in southwestern Ontario. We have been able to establish an affirmative action program in many plants in southwestern Ontario in cooperation with the United Automobile Workers of America. It's been done in Windsor and in London.

MR. LASKIN: Also are you - can you give us some idea of the number of complaints of discrimination that have been filed by Native peoples with the Commission, are those figures available?

MR. ARMSTRONG: I'll refer this question to our man in the north, Bill Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: In terms of absolute numbers at this time I would say that I'm not able to give you that information but that in percentages it is between 50 and 60% of the complaints in northern Ontario.

MR. LASKIN: They are filed by Native people?





MR. JACKSON: Yes.

MR. LASKIN: Have any of those complaints been taken to a Board of Inquiry?

MR. JACKSON: Yes. As a matter of fact we just had one recently, two recently in Thunder Bay - the 21st of October.

MR. ARMSTRONG: We are waiting for a decision on two cases.

MR. LASKIN: Thanks very much. I'd like to mark a copy of that brief as our next exhibit, No.248.

---EXHIBIT NO.248:

Submission of Ontario Human Rights Commission.

MR. LASKIN: As was stated at the outset a major presentation on behalf of Grand Council Treaty No.3 will be made on Thursday but I understand there is one issue which they wish to address today, and I would like to call on Grand Chief John Kelly to deal with that particular matter. Chief Kelly.

CHIEF JOHN KELLY

Mr. Commissioner, I have with me a gentleman from Seine River, John Johnson. Seine River is one of the few communities that will be effected by the acid rain at Marmion Lake.

"Mr. Commissioner, in Dryden we informed you of the coal-fired generating station Ontario Hydro intends to build at Marmion Lake near



10 "Atikokan. We explained that no scrubbing units would be built into the generating station's stack and that sulphur dioxide would therefore freely pour from the operation into the northern Ontario atmosphere. Dr. Kramer of McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, testified in Dryden that sulphur dioxide from the Hydro power plant would produce acid rain which would slowly, but surely, strangle the life from our lakes and rivers.

20 "The project will clearly have a major impact on the northern environment and it will have a drastic effect on my people's health and welfare. My people have told you time and again that the Indian life-style, religious, social and cultural systems are intimately bound to the environment. To tamper with the environment is to tamper with the physical, social and cultural survival of my people.

30 "A project such as the coal-fired generating station at Marmion Lake has never been built in our area before. Least of all, Hydro knows the full extent of the havoc it will wreak on our environment. But we do know about acid rain. Acid rain destroys trees, shrubs and mosses, and gradually kills the fish in lakes and rivers. It is understandable that my people want the Marmion Lake project to undergo public scrutiny. The request is a reasonable one.

40 "The Environmental Assessment Act of



10 "Ontario states that 'the environmental Assess-  
ment Board shall evaluate projects such as  
Marmion Lake'. Nevertheless, the Ontario  
Cabinet saw fit to exempt the Marmion Lake plant  
from the provisions of that Act. In Dryden,  
Mr. Commissioner, we challenged you to prove  
that your Commission into the Northern Environ-  
ment wasn't merely a public relations exercise.  
We asked you to exert your influence on the  
Ontario Government and persuade them to abide  
by their Environmental Assessment Act. We said  
that this would be a test for the credibility  
20 of your Commission. So far you have not passed  
that test. The Ontario Government is going  
ahead with the project. There has been no  
public evaluation of the Ontario Government's  
decision not to install scrubbers and remove  
the sulphur dioxide from the emissions of the  
Marmion Lake power plant. We now understand  
30 that the United States Department have asked  
for a moratorium on the project until experts  
can assess its environmental impact. We also  
understand that the United States Government  
may ask the International Joint Commission to  
intervene in the matter. We have learned much  
40 from the chain of events, and the most impor-  
tant lesson is that the United States Govern-  
ment has more of an impact on environmental  
matters in northwestern Ontario than the Royal  
Commission on the Northern Environment.

"Let us now consider the arguments put





10 "forward by Ontario Hydro. Hydro has stated that it will cost too much to install the scrubbers at Marmion Lake, but we now have a formula available to assess how much it will cost not to install scrubbers. A Federal Government study has recently released of the costs the public must bear for the decision to allow the Sudbury Nickel operations to dump 4½ tons of sulphur dioxide a day into the Sudbury air. The cost to the public in terms of health and environmental damage, was almost \$450 Million a year.

20 "Let us now apply the same formula to the Marmion Lake project. The sulphur content of western sub-bituminous coal is 0.53%. The potential sulphur dioxide emissions from this coal would be about 1%, by weight, of the coal burnt. At Marmion Lake, Hydro expects to burn an average of 2.5 million tons of coal a year, or 68,500 tons of coal a day. This means that Ontario Hydro will be pumping about 685 tons of sulphur dioxide into the northwestern Ontario and Minnesota environment each and every day. If we now apply the formula used in the assessment of sulphur dioxide damages in the Sudbury area to Marmion Lake, we find that the cost to the public will be over \$60 Million per year. Consider the fact that it will cost Ontario Hydro \$70 Million to install the special equipment needed to scrub their fumes clean. I would suggest that Ontario

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"Hydro would have the cost of their scrubbers paid off in less than two years if they are willing to take into account the social, environmental and health costs the people of northwestern Ontario will be forced to pay.

10 "One other point, in Scandinavia, fish biologists were puzzled by unexpectedly high mercury levels in fish in a lake where no mercury had been dumped. The natural mercury in the environment was no greater in this lake than in the lakes of Scandinavia without a mercury problem. The Scandinavian scientists concluded that acid rain had  
20 fallen on the high mercury lake. The acid rain had caused an unusual amount of mercury to escape into the atmosphere and be absorbed by the fish.

30 "As you know, Mr. Commissioner, we have far too much mercury in our river systems already. We do not need any more.

40 "Ontario Hydro has repeatedly stated that the emissions from its coal-fired generating station at Atikokan will meet the standards established by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. The project will not, of course, meet the United States and Minnesota sulphur dioxide standards. Our concern is that the Ontario standards are inadequate.

"Ontario bases its standards on the ability of the environment to absorb sulphur



10 "dioxide without causing any damage. But there is no living environment that is unaltered by waste disposal. In fact the Federal Government has rejected Ontario's policy of gambling that the environment can absorb pollutants. Instead, the Federal Government insists that the minimal acceptable standard must be one of which employs the 'best practicable technology'. In the case of Marmion Lake, this would mean installing scrubbers, something that Ontario hydro refuses to do.

20 "Mr. Commission, the Native people have been forced to carry the physical, social, cultural and environmental costs of projects such as Marmion Lake far too long. Governments have repeatedly played environmental roulette with our life-styles. It is prime time that someone stopped this insane game. We feel that someone is you. The challenge that you face is to get the Ontario Government to adhere to the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and hold an Inquiry into the impact of their Marmion Lake project. It is an ideal way to prove to the Indian people and the citizens of northern Ontario that the Royal Commission into the Northern Environment is a Commission with a clout."

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THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much, Mr. Kelly. May I just say before you go that I assure you that



10 I will consider very carefully what you have said this afternoon. As you are well aware it is a very complicated matter - a liaison has been set up with the Hydro. I do not intend at this stage to enter into the controversy raised by your unilaterally set condition of credibility for this Commission, but I assure you that I will consider what you say very carefully and I will do what I can. Thank you.

MR. LASKIN: I would like to mark a copy of that brief as Exhibit 249.

20 ---EXHIBIT NO.249:

Submission of Grand Council  
Treaty No.3.

MR. LASKIN: Our next scheduled presentation is by Mr. George Brown on behalf of the Canadian Institute of Forestry. Mr. Brown.

GEORGE BROWN

30 My name is George Brown and I'm the Chairman of the Lake of the Woods Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry; a national organization of foresters, biologists and other related disciplines one of whose aim is the promotion of sound forest management and forest research.

40 "Now, the Lake of the Woods Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry has a geographic range that lies between the international border in the south and the shores of Hudson Bay in the north, between a line on the east that starts approximately halfway between Atikokan, and Fort Frances and it is projected north through to Ignace, Pickle





"Lake and it's bounded on the west by the Manitoba border.

"The Lake of the Woods Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry is proud to claim as its members, 47 of the 60 some odd resident foresters in this area on a voluntary basis.

"The section meets quarterly, when National and Provincial issues concerning forestry are discussed and appropriate action taken, if warranted in the form of briefs or recommendations to the appropriate level of government as happens to be a case right now."

The next meeting of the Section will take place about two weeks from now at which time the membership may decide to present you with a more detailed brief in the future.

#### "FORESTRY SCHOOLS

"Mr. Chairman, Justice Hartt and members of the Commission, the practice of forestry in Canada had its start with the establishment of the first school of forestry at the University of Toronto in 1905. Today 2 out of the 6 forestry schools in Canada are located in Ontario as a testimonial to the forest management requirements of this Province.

#### "FOREST LEGISLATION

"Ontario was also the first Province in Canada to enact legislation concerning its forests. The first statutes were primarily



10 "concerned with the establishment of regulations that would govern the exploitation of this forest wealth. Laws to protect the forest from the ravages of fire were next enacted to ensure the maximum utilization of the forests. Legislation concerning the management of the forests were not enacted until the need to manage this resource was pointed out by the Kennedy Royal Commission in 1947, the Brodie Forest Study Unit of 1967 and more recently the Armson Report of 1976 has called for more intensive forest management in Ontario on a sustained yield basis.

20 "FOREST MANAGEMENT

30 "Now, Forest Management is not a simple operation. Some of the factors that a forest manager must take into consideration are:

"The objectives of the owner and in this case, the people of Ontario. What do they want?

"One of the other factors, the silvicultural characteristics of the species to be managed.

40 "And the biological limitations of that speci.

"The productive capacity of the site and its protection from deterioration.

"The climate as it is affected by latitude.

"The rotation in a cutting schedule that will determine the products that will be produced, i.e., pulpwood, sawlogs, veneer, food or fuel for example.



"The biological effects of the cutting pattern on the flora and fauna that inhabit the forest.

"The recreational and aesthetic requirements of the people.

10 "The limitations that are placed upon the forest manager by various user groups through their representatives in the Provincial Legislature.

"The funds that are made available to the forest manager by the Provincial Government to enable him to meet all demands that are placed upon the forest entrusted to his care.

#### FOREST USERS

20 "The ancestors of our first Canadians lived in harmony with the environment as hunters and gatherers of food, right through the fur trading era of our history.

30 "It was not the arrival of the white man as much as his ability to manufacture paper from the fiber of wood and the subsequent establishment of 11 pulp and paper mills in the last 50 years that is responsible for the changes that are taking place in the Boreal Forest of Ontario. It was the establishment of these mills that provided us with a life-style that now appears to be in conflict with the ability of the Boreal Forest to provide them.

40 "Until quite recently, forest users could 'stake out' a trap line, a cottage site, a tourist camp, a wilderness area or a timber licence from the public domain without coming into conflict with the other users. But now, due to the ever increasing demands that our





"society is placing upon products of the Boreal Forest, these single users find themselves competing for the same piece of the public domain to the exclusion of all others.

"MULTIPLE USE

"Sir, the Foresters in the Lake of the Woods Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry firmly believe that the Boreal Forest of Ontario is capable of meeting most of the demands - I repeat, most of the demands that are placed upon it by our society through a concept of 'multiple use planning', when the forests of Ontario are managed on a sustained yield basis and adequately funded by our Legislators.

"THE PRACTICE OF FORESTRY

"The Boreal Forest is a dynamic and constantly changing environment where plant associations and plant communities will replace one another in a never ending cycle. The animal life of the Boreal Forest changes as constantly as the plants upon which they depend for their existence. The management of this forest in a constantly changing environment requires the professional training and dedication that only a forester can give. Inasmuch as the majority of the foresters practice their profession on public lands, it is the people of Ontario through their Government that dictate the type and intensity of management that is being practiced in Ontario.



"SUPPORT FOR THE COMMISSION

"We, the Foresters in the Lake of the Woods Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry support your Commission as responsible citizens of Ontario and will gladly provide you with any assistance if called upon to do so.

"I would also like to extend to you, if I may, and to the members of your Commission an invitation from our employers, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the members of the local Woods industry, to visit our operation in order that you may observe at firsthand the problems that foresters encounter in prescribing and implementing the techniques of forest management for multiple use under the constraints that are placed upon us by the Legislators of this Province.

"On behalf of the Lake of the Woods Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry I thank you for allowing me to speak to you, the members of your Commission and this assembly.

Thank you very much.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much, Mr. Brown.

MR. LASKIN: Mr. Brown, does your Institute have any view on who should be responsible for forest management in this Province, as between the private sector and the Government?

MR. BROWN: They do but - and they present their views like, through the various seminars to the levels of government. You know, like right now, the Institute as a



matter of fact, other forestry-oriented organizations are studying the Armson Report. You know reports are being made to the Minister concerning these matters. There is going to be one in Thunder Bay I believe at the end of January, on the 28th, to deal with the Armson Report.

10 MR. LASKIN: Do you have any particular views on that?

MR. BROWN: My own views! I might be biased if I said so. I think that there is room for both industry and to Government to manage the forest adequately. The biggest problems of management are adequate funding to do the job.

20 MR. LASKIN: In your view if the forests were properly managed what is the average regeneration time of the northern forests, are you able to say?

30 MR. BROWN: I read about ten different things there that concern the management of forests. It is not a simple question to answer because even like one of the factors that will govern the rate of growth of a tree for instance and its regeneration capacity is latitude, the others are soil capacity or site, as foresters referred them.

40 I have practiced forestry for 25 years in the eastern part of Ontario, northeastern part of Ontario - still in a boreal forest. In the last - pardon me, 20 years down there and 5 years here, a total of 25 years and the differences in managing jackpine are different because of climate and soil conditions. Consequently, there are changes and techniques in management that have to be applied by latitude as you go further north. The techniques are there, it is just can we afford them, you know. These are the things, these are the considerations and in the State of Minnesota if you cannot



regenerate you cannot cut. In B.C. under the tree farm licence and in Alberta under a similar licencing system, the licensee must regenerate his cutover five years after the cut or he cuts no more, and it is going to be regenerated at his expense so you know it's a very complicated business.

MR. LASKIN: Thanks, Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thanks very much, Mr. Brown.

MR. LASKIN: I'll mark a copy of your brief as Exhibit 250.

---EXHIBIT NO.250:

Submission of the Canadian  
Institute of Forestry.

MR. LASKIN: Our next scheduled speaker is Mr. Fergie Devins, who is speaking on behalf of the Northwestern Ontario District Progressive Conservative Youth Association. Mr. Devins.

FERGUS DEVINS

Mr. Hartt, members of your Commission.

"I am pleased to have this opportunity to present to you, sir, some views on behalf of the Northwestern Ontario District Progressive Conservative Youth Association. I wouldn't be candid if I didn't preface my remarks with the observation that we as young Conservatives firmly believe that the development of this part of The Province in both industry and tourism is an essential step in protecting our





"lives and identities as Northerners.

"If I might be permitted to digress on a personal note for a moment, I and my friends and peers were born here, sir, we have been educated here, we have played here, we have learned to love and dream here. In the words of Kipling, I believe it was, 'This is my own, my native land'.

"I want to remain here, I want to grow and develop here, and there is probably nothing else at this time that means as much to me as fighting for the opportunity to do so.

"Many of my friends have gone to other parts of Canada; to Toronto, Montreal, London, Vancouver and most often to Winnipeg for their education. They grow there and they learn there and all too often they remain there. In my opinion and in the opinion of young Conservatives, they are throwing away the heritage that they were born into. They miss the satisfaction of carving out a life and a life-style in a challenging frontier-like environment basically free of the social and environmental problems of the major centres to the south, to the east and to the west (and I don't ignore for a moment, sir, the highly publicized and over-exaggerated mercury pollution issue).

"The new generation of Northerners,



10 "born in the North and determined to stay in  
the North, wants to have the opportunity to  
take on the challenges of the 1980's here in  
the North and particularly here in the North-  
west. The rest of the Province must give us  
the opportunity to share in the determination  
of priorities that creates wealth in this  
Province and we must be given the opportunity  
to share benefits of that wealth creation  
process. I know, sir, that this message has  
gotten through to you loudly and clearly and  
I respectfully submit that one of your most  
20 important tasks must be to spread that message  
throughout the Province.

30 "Your generation, sir, my parents and  
my friends' parents, started the process that  
has given rise to so many of our expectations.  
Your generation has made many mistakes and so  
in all likelihood will mine, but you must give  
us the freedom and the opportunity to do so.  
Don't sterilize us. Don't destroy our hopes  
before they get off the ground.

40 "A simple example of the type of  
thing that crushes our expectations in the  
North is the Minaki Lodge fiasco. The comple-  
tion of Minaki Lodge is so important to the  
future of, not only the community of Minaki,  
but also to the entire region that it is  
really difficult to accept the delays that  
have taken place. We understand the politics  
of Southern Ontario and we can accept the



"fact that fiscal restraint has resulted in the present deferral of construction, but I must, sir, question the priorities that continually place on the back burner a project of such obvious benefit to so many people. The Kenora District needs a tourist magnet, an attraction such as Banff, Ontario Place, the Science Centre, the National Art Center, the Olympic Village and grounds, etc. etc. etc. In our case, Minaki would not only attract tourists with the obvious spin-off effects, it would also supply the jobs that may well mean the survival of the Community. I use Minaki as one example, but we are tired, sir, of the glory seekers in Eastern Ontario who constantly want to score political points on the backs of residents of Northwestern Ontario. We need positive development in this area if we are to survive, let alone to have the opportunities that I referred to earlier.

"This development that I refer to is one that by its very nature can be shared with our Native brothers. I don't want to dwell on the problems of those Natives who have chosen to leave the land, and to live in or around settled communities in the North. Those problems must be all too obvious to you. I know sociologists and psychologists who will hypothesize about what must be done, but the truth is that there is no magic solution. You know, and I know, that much of the problem





"lies in the hearts of men and women, both Native and White, and I know of no quick and easy way to effect the changes there.

10 "In my view part of the solution lies in sharing the benefits of the development and ensuring a vision of the opportunities that we have in the North, but I wouldn't be honest with you, sir, if I did not express disappointment over the use that the Natives, who have chosen to remain on the land, have made of their woodland areas. In my view, they have much to prove. There must be much greater stress on developing the land resources on and around those Reserves.

20 "Sir, let's be honest, if any white group had control of large areas of land such as those on Native reservations, they would put them to much greater use. Land is a precious commodity today, and I am sure that with proper discussions, improved input in the form of expertise and greater encouragement, the young native people could and, in fact, would take the bull by the horns and start using development to their own advantage. I am confident, sir, that eventually Native groups will seek the benefit of fully reaping the bountiful harvest of their lands. I know that they don't want handouts, something that the Federal Government uses as a cure-all for its own lack of imagination. I really don't believe that the Natives like welfare and

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"give-away programs with no accountability. I think it's time we stressed work for welfare and help the Natives put pride back into their efforts. A happy and content person is a person who is working regardless of race, creed or colour. Unemployment and welfare handouts, when they become habitual destroy character and breed social consequences that are all too obvious to see. In the North the opportunities are unlimited for all of us, if we take the time to grasp them, and make the effort to share them. We, who live in the North, sir, understand that the mercury pollution issue is a red herring. Does it not seem strange to you, for example, that the problem halts at the Ontario-Manitoba border? The same water and the same fish end up in our sister province to the west, but our destructive negativism doesn't, and they, sir, are all the better off for it. We, who live in the North, know that alcohol abuse and venereal disease are symptoms that simply serve to confuse the real issue. The problem is the failure to take hold of opportunities and this failure today is based on an unwillingness to grow and develop. At this moment of the twentieth century and in this part of Canada, we are not talking about development for development's sake. What we are talking about is development for man's sake. Without it, the future of this area for both Natives and Whites is gloomy indeed.



10 "Jobs must be high on the priority  
list for Northern Ontario. We need to keep  
people in the North. As an example, I would  
suggest that we need more government offices  
in this area. The Ministry of Natural Resources  
has a regional office in Kenora. The Ministry  
of Northern Affairs, in large part because of  
the presentations made by the Kenora Chamber  
of Commerce, decided to locate its regional  
office here in Kenora. Other Ministries could  
follow these examples. It is starting to  
20 happen, but the whole decentralization program  
must be accelerated by both the Federal and  
Provincial governments.

30 "Sir, your mandate of examination  
extends to that area north of the 50th parallel.  
We, as the coming generation, believe as did  
your generation who moved up to the 50th  
parallel that the future of our Province lies  
in this great untouched area. It harbours un-  
tapped and yet to be discovered sources of  
wealth. It has some of the Province's greatest  
beauty, and because of its incredible promise,  
it attracts my generation like a magnet.

40 "In dealing with this area and in  
tapping the resources that are there, we want  
to gain from earlier mistakes. Quite frankly,  
we are sick and tired of hearing about, and we  
don't want a repetition of, the mercury issue,  
the arsenic issue, the PCB issue, the rate on  
gas issue and the fluctuating water issue and



"on and on. With the experience of the past and the desires of the present we can plan, direct and develop a great and healthy future for the area.

"It's great to talk about government planning and government control. Do this for us, do that for us. Please do not forget that we want to do things for ourselves. We are individuals in this part of the Province. Leave us room to go our own way as individuals, to use our own imagination, initiative and desire. Let us fulfil the promise of the opportunity that our lands hold. Trust us to do what we can do and to do it well. We have no intention of letting your generation or our generation down.

"I thank you, sir, and I wish you every success in your future deliberations. A great deal seems to rest in your hands."

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Mr. Devins. A copy of your brief will be filed as Exhibit 251.

---EXHIBIT NO.251:

Submission of the Northwestern  
Ontario District Progressive  
Conservative Youth Association.

MR. LASKIN: I would next like to call on the presentation of the Kenora Paper Mill Unions Federated Committee. I believe the presentation will be by Mr. Lyle Hudson, who is President of Local 1330 of the United Paper Workers International Union.





LYLE HUDSON

Thank you for the introduction.

Justice Hartt, Commission members, the employees of the Kenora Paper Mill welcome you to Kenora and thank you for the opportunity to give you our opinions.

"PREFACE

"Employees of the Kenora Paper Mill have chosen the Paper Industry as their main source of livelihood. Many of their forefathers began working for the Backus-Brooks Paper Company in the Kenora area in the early 1900's. It is their dream and the hope that their sons and daughters and the future generations of their families will continue to choose Kenora and its associated Paper Industry as their place of residence and a source of employment.

"The Kenora area has provided these families many recreational and leisure time facilities which is part and parcel of their own decision to settle down in this North-western Region. The Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited and its predecessor companies have played a vital part in opening up the area to vast hunting, and fishing and recreational facilities that now exist.

"The employees and their families justly feel that they have an inherent right to be directly involved in any decisions that



"will affect their present or future livelihood and environment.

"As true representatives of the ordinary workers of the Kenora Paper Mill we welcome the Ontario Government's establishment of this Commission to ensure that our environment is managed and controlled in order to maintain our quality of life.

"INTRODUCTION

"In 1977 the Kenora Paper Mill employed approximately nine hundred and thirty (930) workers of which sixty-five (65) were non-unionized. The Kenora Paper Mill Unions Federated Committee represents the eight hundred and sixty-five (865) unionized employees. The committee consists of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the six (6) representative Union Locals, who are all present here today.

"Each and every Local represented by the committee supports the submission of this brief. They are unanimous in their stand against any suggestion or action that would jeopardize their present social, economical and cultural way of life.

"The Kenora Paper Mill of the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited provides the major industry in Kenora, Ontario. It is imperative that we be assured of its continued operation so that our families can look with hope to the future.



10 "The memberships we represent strongly support the wise utilization and intensive management of our Province's natural resources. The multiple use concept is widely supported by our membership as it provides the best method of satisfying the requirements and needs of the majority of the people in the Northwestern Region of Ontario. It provides the means to best satisfy the majority of the citizens of the Province of Ontario.

20 "LOGGING

30 "In order for the Kenora Paper Mill to continue its existence, the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited must have a continuous source of timber supply at a reasonable cost. The bulk of this timber supply is obtained from the Province of Ontario on Crown Management Units and Company Licenses. The brief from the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited to your Commission contains a detailed breakdown and maps indicating the source of this supply. As can be seen from the map, a very significant portion of the wood source exists south of the 50th parallel.

40 "The availability of this timber on a continuous basis is vital to the continued viable operation of our Kenora Paper Mill. The jobs and livelihood of thousands of people in the Kenora region depend on the continuous operation of the Kenora Paper Mill. The Province of Ontario receives millions of dollars in revenues





10 "through dues, taxes, etc. that are generated by the Pulp and Paper Industry in Northwestern Ontario. Any action by the Government of Ontario that would curtail or jeopardize the availability of these timber resources in the name of environmental protection could very seriously affect the social and economic life of our members, their families, and future generations to come.

20 "In the Northwestern Region, despite some singular specific conflicts over the best land use, the logging industry and the tourist industry have generally lived in harmony. In fact, many of the tourist establishments have resulted from the paper industry's development of <sup>access roads</sup> and highways over the past seventy (70) years. It is essential that this relationship continue in harmony and there is no reason it cannot do so if the resources are managed in a coordinated manner in a multiple use concept.

30 "This cooperative and coordinated use of the forest land must be continued and improved for the social, economic and future well-being of the citizens of the Kenora Region. We like it here and we feel that the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited has been a good corporate citizen and a good employer.

40 "All that is required is good, honest, forest management and control so that a timber crop is renewed on a continuous basis. This



10 "management control must be intensified so that the environmental quality is maintained to ensure that the next crop is as equal to or better than this one. With technological information and experience that has been developed over the past seventy (70) years it is known that managed regulated logging can provide better volumes per acre than natural growth.

20 "ENVIRONMENT

"The vast majority of the people who live in the Kenora area are living here because they like the forests, lakes and the fishing and the hunting opportunities that they provide. It is our hope and dream that our children continue to have these benefits as well.

30 "It is a known fact that the Paper Industry through its Logging operations has opened up vast areas to hunting, fishing, and general recreational uses. We have seen areas that were cut over fifty (50) years ago and have noted the full regeneration that has occurred. Logging operations, tourist facilities, and recreational facilities can be seen throughout the area with the environment well maintained. The area is a living proof that a multiple use concept is possible and essential in this Northwestern Region. Intensive good management of the natural resources in a multiple use concept is essential for our continued growth.

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"JOBS

"The vast majority of the jobs in Northern and Northwestern Ontario communities are directly linked to the natural resources, whether it be mining, logging or tourism.

"Kenora is no exception to this and in fact it is considered a one industry town, it depends very heavily on the pulp and paper industry. Loss of this industry to the town of Kenora could very well destroy it economically.

"The Kenora Paper Mill and its Woodlands Operations employ native people on the same terms and conditions as any other employees. Our membership consists of several native people. The logging operation provides native people with many job opportunities. Our members want to continue this relationship and to live in Northwestern Ontario. We have been building a future here for our children and their children. Our jobs are essential to the continued survival of Kenora and its surrounding communities. The Province of Ontario depends on our taxes, and the revenue derived from the Pulp and Paper Industry for Ontario's continued growth.

"The forests north of the 50th parallel are vital to the Pulp and Paper Industry and are necessary for the continued survival of the Kenora Paper Mill. We don't have to be forestry experts, geologists, engineers, lawyers or professors to understand that the Pulp and Paper



10 "Industry must have a continuous source of usable timber at as low a cost as possible to survive economically. They must be assured of this for many years if we, the employees, want to be reasonably assured of future employment.

20 "Our jobs and livelihood, now and in the future, depend on the proper harvesting of these forests. It can be done for the mutual benefit of all concerned, by good intensive management of the natural resources in a multiple use concept. The environment can and will be maintained.

"FISHING & HUNTING

30 "One of the benefits enjoyed by our members and thousands of other citizens of Ontario, the rest of Canada and the United States, is the hunting and the fishing.

40 "The accessibility to the hunting and fishing areas have been primarily brought about by the logging industry. They have opened up the areas so that the ordinary citizen can have easy access to the game and fish. A wilderness or restricted non-accessible area does not allow the ordinary individual with limited income, to have access to the fish and game. These restricted areas are available only to the rich and the more fortunate.

"Because of the logging operations





10 "our game animals, such as moose, have improved feeding and shelter conditions. The logging industry has created openings in the forests that have afforded them easier access to food and provided better shelter facilities. As a direct result of logging, game has increased in our area. Also this has been possible through the multiple use concept. Again we emphasize that good management control would provide better fish and game crop than the uncontrolled wilderness area.

20 "WILDERNESS

"Establishment of vast wilderness areas of land for wilderness parks in North-western Ontario would benefit only a small handful of people and would seriously affect the social and economical life of our people in Northwestern Ontario.

30 "Wilderness parks, as defined by the Ministry of Natural Resources, are blocks of Land and Water that are set aside to allow the natural processes to continue on a large scale relatively unaffected by human action. Travel within these areas is allowed only by means of non-mechanized vehicles. In several instances flying is forbidden within five thousand (5,000) feet of an area to mistakenly 'protect' the wildlife.

40 "Many of the wilderness parks proposed are vast in size and because of the restrictions and availability will be utilized



"by very few people. In a poll of our members as well as many other Kenora residents we have found almost unanimous opposition to vast wilderness parks such as proposed for the Atikaki area.

10 "The Atikaki proposal is a prime example of a proposed preservation of vast areas of land without regard to the people directly affected. The benefits this proposal claim are very minimal as compared to the effect it would have on this region's economic and social life. The Atikaki proposal strikes  
20 at the very heart of our people's livelihood. It appears to suggest that a wilderness park which may create employment for a few months of the year should replace a high paying labour intensive, year round industry. This is absurd! How can a group of people whose base is primarily outside the boundaries of Ontario and whose proposal is mainly endorsed by the Province of Manitoba groups, have the gall to disregard so blatantly the people of Northwestern Ontario? It is easy to see why they did not consult or attempt to extract support from the Northwestern Ontario citizens. They knew that their proposal, if accepted, would eventually strangle our growth and destroy our economy.

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"CONCLUSION

"Your Commission will no doubt receive briefs and arguments by several groups and



10 "interests. Some groups will yield considerable political and other pressures. Other groups will use the Commission as a means to gain national attention for their cause, at the expense of the people of Northwestern Ontario. Many will propose and suggest recommendations that will 'feather their nest' or further their groups' self-interests.

20 "We respectfully submit that our brief is not one of these types. We are appealing on behalf of the ordinary workers and citizens, whose only interest is to be able to continue to live in Northwestern Ontario as we have, and as we hope to in the future. To do this we need assurance that our present and future economic base in the logging, mining and tourist industries will not be locked up into any wilderness plan.

30 "The logging industry, the mining industry and the tourist industry has for many decades lived and grown side-by-side in Northern and Northwestern Ontario. Even with the stepped up pace of population and economic growth, we have continued to live in an atmosphere of harmony, good will and hope. We are not against tourism, mining, native rights or free enterprise. What we are against, is any individual or group who advocates a proposal that will serve their own interests at the expense of others. We strongly suggest that a multiple use concept

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"has worked well in Northern and Northwestern Ontario for decades.

"Good, honest management of our natural resources North of the 50th parallel, under the multiple use concept, would best serve the vast majority of the people of Ontario."

We respectfully submit this brief to you, Justice Hartt, and Members of the Commission, and represented by the Union Federated Committee: Carl Stephens, President of Local 238, Canadian Paper Workers Union; Lorne Shouldice, President of Local 940, International Union of Operating Engineers; Roger Leroux, President of Local 488, Office and Professional Employees International Union; Walter Marshaluk, Business Manager, Local 559, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Barry Adamson, President of Lodge 490, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and myself, Lyle Hudson, President of Local 1330, United Paper Workers International Union."

Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much, Lyle.

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Mr. Hudson. A copy of your brief will be filed as Exhibit 252.

---EXHIBIT NO.252:

Submission of the Kenora Paper Mill Unions Federated Committee.

MR. LASKIN: I believe we have two more presentations this afternoon. I would now like to call on Miss Nancy Morrison to address the Commission.



NANCY MORRISON

10 "Mr. Justice Hartt. This brief will be brief. Not because we have nothing to say, but because we know that others, with their hired staff will be reporting to you in more polite form about some of the same things. And, also, we believe that we show our concern in other ways.

20 "We are a group of concerned people, mainly women, mainly native and mainly mothers, who, over the past several years, have lived and worked on the streets of Kenora.

30 "We have seen and heard many things that concern us. You could write a book about our experiences and still not have a complete picture of what is happening. I do have here a story-picture of actual photographs of people who have been beaten up. These things are happening right now, and what I have here is some of their stories they are telling. (It could be that they don't tell the police all of those things, but they are telling me, and others, too).

40 "And, also, here with me I have a list of the people in our community, 13 pages of names of native people, this is a partial list of the people in the District of Kenora - and some of them had previously reported being beaten up, and shoved off the dock - but now those have died what we are now calling a



"sudden, or violent, or unnatural death.

Over the past 7 years, from 1970 to the present; it is a partial list because we do not have access to the files; these are the people who have come to our attention as we live and meet with the people on the street.

"Each of these have a story to tell, could they talk and tell their story. The two grandmothers who recently drank insect repellent - Raid, we are told. Why did they do this? Who cares enough to have an inquest that seeks to determine the real cause? It is not in our Native tradition to take our own life. Elders tell us that only the Great Spirit decides when our life on earth should end. And now we have our elders, so mixed up and defeated and all hope extinguished, so that they are, by example - teaching us a new tradition.

"And if we have lost our older tradition of our elders, what do we have left? What hope for the future for ourselves and our children?

"And, also in the past two months, we have 3 young girls, one of them just last week, dying from overdose. The ages are 11, 12 and 14. We also have a 22-year old mother freezing to death and a young man 23 years old, hanging himself in our jail - the second to do so this year past, Mr. Justice Hartt,



"and the fourth in the past 3 years.

"Even as I write these words, during the holiday season there is a man walking around Town with rope marks on his neck telling us that he was strung up - almost lynched - as he was walking home to his reserve.

"And what are the police doing about all this? We don't understand. We don't seem to see them concerned. We don't see them around Town asking questions about this incident. When we report things to the police we get the brush off. Yet when we hear that a suggestion is made that perhaps the police could undergo some 'awareness sessions' to get to know us and our culture better, we understand that their reply is: 'We know our Indians.'

"They say that they know their Indians - but seem unable to do anything about the under-age kids being served in the many bars and hotels in our community.

"In former times when some of these conditions were brought to the attention of authorities, all that seemed to happen was that a new batch of social workers was brought in from the east to study us all over again, and the conditions continue the same - and worsen.

"We are now wondering where we are going as a community. Is this what development and civilization means? This seems to





10 "be what it has meant to these people and their families - 13 typewritten pages full of mothers and fathers, and grandmothers and husbands and children and babies who are no longer with us - and can no longer speak to us.

"So, I am trying to hear what they are saying and speak for them. To tell their story to all who have ears to hear, and to beg you to act and not just hear and go away, as we have known to happen before - many times.

20 "We are very angry and dissatisfied with the handful of inquests that have been held for these people. When one is held it is not thorough enough. It seems that it is not to seek the real causes of these deaths, but more of a cover-up. 'The person who drank insect repellent', we are told, or 'the young girl took an overdose of TB pills'. And so on. Does that sound like it's getting to the real cause, or a cover-up, like I said before.

30 "We who work in the streets know that others are prepared to testify at inquests and are not called, and the inquests are taken out of the hands of Indian people. The bands and people who are interested are not heard. The inquests are not held in such a manner that Indian people know or even understand what is going on. It's not fair at all.

40 "All of this is causing a lot of fighting among our people and the community.



"And we are teaching our children to fight instead of working together to build a better place for all of us.

10 "Mr. Hartt, I would like you to consider this one recommendation: If you do recommend people being hired to work among us - we want people from among us to be the ones hired, not someone from the east or someone who wants to make a good living out of our misery."

20 And before I go I would like to extend to you, Mr. Hartt, to come and see the album that I have prepared for this occasion, and see for yourself what my people have encountered.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, I will, Mrs. Morrison, and when could I do that?

MRS. MORRISON: Could you come over here.

30 THE COMMISSIONER: Now. Yes.

40 MRS. MORRISON: I have taken a few years to compile this album and what I had written was - one likes to take pictures of a memorable moment. However, the pictures here are not exactly the kind one would like to remember. Why were the pictures taken? To make people realize if they haven't yet that means white and Native people that we are living in a troubled area and must no longer be ignored. Whenever someone opens this album and sees the pictures should stop and think and ask themselves: Why? Why is there so much violence? Why is there so much racial discrimination and most of all why was a pamphlet called "Bended Elbow" created. A pamphlet that seems to trigger



beatings in broad daylight. There was some beatings before but it was done under cover of darkness.

10 Top officials from the Attorney General's Office, who came to Kenora to meet with various people regarding "Bended Elbow" had decided even before they arrived in Kenora that the pamphlet was based on social reform and that it was not racist. Do you agree?

20 My own opinion I state that the pamphlet created a group of people that figured it was a licence to beat up old men and women, beat up people who have too much to drink thus unable to protect themselves. I ask again: Is this social reform?

A 47-year old man beaten up by four white teenage boys - approximate age of boys, 15 to 20 years old. that's one.

30 A 67-year old man - four teenage boys, all white, approached this man, asked him if he had any money. He told them he had none; the boys got mad so they beat him up. Mark around his throat where one of them attempted to strangle him. He says he's sore all over where he was punched and kicked. Incident was reported to police and also a signed statement is available. That's No.2.

40 No.3, 46-year old man. This man was walking around the street in the early hours of the morning as he had no place to go. He met three white teenage boys. As he approached him two boys got on each side of him, while the other one grabbed him, throw him on the sidewalk. As soon as he fell down then the three proceeded to beat him up. He tried to protect his face by putting his arms up but one of them managed to kick him above his left eye.





10 No.4, 27-year old; this man was sober, when he decided to go for a walk along the beach road area in Keewatin. He saw four white boys coming towards him. As they approached him he realized they were going to pick a fight with him so he started to run but the boys caught up with him and they beat and kicked him. He said there was no reason for them to attack him.

20 No.5, 45 years old, beaten up by three white boys. Location: Recreation Centre. Approximate age of boys: 16 to 18 years old. Signed statement is available, and here I put a common sight on the streets of Kenora; you know, there's blood, you know on the streets.

30 No.6, an old age pensioner. An old lady. Four white boys approached this lady and asked her if she received her pension cheque yet, and when she didn't answer they started beating her up. Location: Water Street area, on July 29th of 1975.

40 No.7. This man was walking towards the hospital, which is located on the west side of Kenora, when he felt that he was being followed. When he was sure that some people were close behind him he started to walk faster and eventually broke into a run. When he looked back the people were also running so he decided to run in the bush across the railroad tracks. He thought someone grabbed him and that's the last he remembers. When he woke up he was in the hospital and his legs felt funny. His legs were - this man will never walk again because his legs were cut off.

No.8. Two men and a woman were walking to Town when they became aware that they were being followed by three white boys. One of the boys was holding a bottle while the other one was carrying a chain. He said he didn't



10 notice if the other boy had anything. Sensing that the boys were after him the man told the lady to go ahead and to try and get away. Thinking that she was safe enough they started running, he apparently didn't go very far. Next thing he knew someone was trying to wake him up; when he was fully awake he resumed walking. When he was asked why he didn't report this to the police he answered, they wouldn't believe me anyway, besides I would be the one to be thrown in jail.

20 No.9. Man decides to go for coffee. As he nears his destination four boys approach him. He recognized three of them so he stopped to talk to them. Instead of talking they started beating him up, robbed him of the money and left him. He reported this to the police, made a statement saying that he knew who beat him up; there was no results came of that.

30 Now, it's a - always talking about Indians drinking on the streets and I have here two pictures of people; one is drinking wine, and it's two white men. Who was it that says Indians were drinking cheap wine and littering the parks and streets of Kenora? And also there's one here that's passed out. Comments heard often in Kenora: Indians use the Memorial Park to sleep off a drunk.

40 Now we get to housing. In the early part of the 70's a survey was done about homeless people and the ones who are forced to live in cardboard shacks, such as the ones shown in the picture. Now, in the latter part of the 70's which is seven years later, the same people who were subjected to a lot of questions are still living in the same conditions. Salvaged boards, canvas, cardboard will have to do in building a lean-to when one has no place to go. An old man and his wife built this place so they could have a place to keep them-



selves warm when the temperature goes down to 40 below zero.

On February 3rd, 1976, a lady, 28-years old was found, frozen to death in this cabin. There was no source of heat and no blankets. The temperature was 40 below zero. The same year the police were called to investigate a fire in the same location of the cabin; the cabin was completely destroyed, the bodies of a man and a woman were found among the ruins. The three people that died in the same cabin were also homeless.

In 1973, November as a matter of fact, a picture was taken of me. We had found a lady living in the bush with nothing above her head and she only got at the time \$11.00 a week on Welfare, and it says here, for \$11.00 a week you can buy this. Now this same lady about a year after, we got some money from Community and Social Services to build her a cabin and it says here, the answer: To keeping the homeless person happy is to build her an 8 X 12-foot cabin and expect her to smarten up, so she can start housekeeping. She tries for awhile, then her friends find out that she has a home. Pretty soon men, women and children, who also have no place to go move in with her and eventually crowds her out. In 1973 this cabin was built through the generosity of the Ontario Government. In 1977 the lady who owned the cabin died right in her own little home. Is this the answer to the housing problem?

Back in 1973, there were 52 existing agencies; some have been phased out since only to be replaced by new ones. Now five years later we have 58 agencies, some overlapping each other. Result - sending people from one agency to another.

Unnatural deaths, beatings, poor housing and alcoholism is still the No.1 problem and it is getting worse





instead of better.

Whoever opens the album will notice that I have two blank pages. I sincerely hope that I don't have to fill them but with the way things are one never knows.

Thank you, Mr. Hartt, for looking at this album.

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Nancy.

---EXHIBIT NO.253:

Submission of Nancy Morrison.

MR. LASKIN: Our last presentation this afternoon will be by Mr. Warner Troyer. Mr. Troyer is going to make his formal presentation to the Commission after our dinner adjournment at 7:30 this evening but for those of you who are interested over the supper break he is going to show a documentary film which he wrote in 1975 on mercury poisoning. I believe it will take a couple of minutes to set up the equipment so perhaps we could take about five minutes; for those of you who are interested Mr. Troyer is going to show the film right now; for the rest of you we will be re-commencing at 7:30 this evening.

WARNER TROYER

"As I shall be presenting my brief to the Commission this evening following the supper break I will not impose on the Commission's patience at this time. Just a note, however, if I may, on my purposes in offering the Commission and those present at this hearing an opportunity to view video-tape of a documentary film on





"mercury poisoning which I wrote for the CBC in the Summer and Autumn of 1975:

10 "The Commission will recall that, in November at its hearing in Ear Falls, Dr. Harrison C. Maynard demanded to know why sensation-mongering journalists like Warner Troyer had too little interest to come back to northwest Ontario to appear before you. He also had a lot to say about mercury poisoning, most of it inaccurate. My presence here is his answer, although I will want to respond to some of the learned doctor's other gratuities in my comments this evening.

20 "My professional activities in respect of Reed Paper, the Government of Ontario and mercury poisoning in northwest Ontario have generated some surprising varieties of personal abuse. It was my distinct honour last May, for example, to share a makeshift gallows with my good friend Barney Lamm when we were both hanged in effigy at Minaki in the mistaken notion that the town crier is the man responsible for the plague. I have also been accused, by the Dryden Observer and some employees of the Kenora Tourist Bureau, among others, of being irresponsible, interested only in sensation, anxious for some obscure and evil motive to destroy the economy and the people of northwest Ontario, even of having had my mind and typewriter - and my journalistic judgment and ethics - bought and paid-for by Barney Lamm, - the favourite target



"of those political ostriches who take the pains, in this area, to occasionally pull their heads out of the sand long enough to slander the most convenient sacrificial goat. They would serve themselves and Ontario better, in my view, if they attended more to mercury-contaminated wall-eye and less to red-herring. I'm not going to indulge in the time-honoured political tradition of passionately defending my own integrity; the allegations that I'm a paid journalistic whore are lies, of course, and probably actionable before another forum. For the rest, I'm content to be judged on 25 years' work at my trade, all of it conducted, unlike the smears, in public. This video-tape is one such example:

"Two asides in regard to the film you're going to see:

"First, it was made more than two years ago, almost 2½ years ago - some of the evidence described in it has been overtaken by subsequent data which indicates the situation is even more serious than seemed the case in September of 1975.

"Secondly, there have been some personnel changes: The Honourable Frank Miller, whom you will shortly see agonizing over his responsibilities to the people of Whitedog and Grassy Narrows, was Health Minister in 1975; in his new portfolio of Natural Resources



10 "he is still agonizing, not least now, perhaps,  
over the guests at Lake Muskoka lodges in  
which he has a financial interest which are  
also, as it is now known, being exposed to  
mercury contaminated lake trout. The Honourable  
Leo Bernier, in faithful adherence to the Peter  
Principle has been given a lateral promotion  
into the tailor-made niche, or refuge, of  
Northern Affairs. Reed Paper's president in  
1975, Robert Billingsley, has acceded to a  
company request that he seek to fulfill his  
20 destiny as a good corporate citizen in some  
other field of endeavour. To fairly round out  
that catalogue I should add that I also  
acceded in 1976 to a request that I seek to  
pursue my journalistic career somewhere other  
than on the CBC programme 'the fifth estate',  
on which this film was originally broadcast.

30 "Beyond that as it should, I think  
the film speaks for itself."

Thank you.

(Mr. Warner Troyer's film shown to Hearing)

40 ---Dinner Adjournment.

---On resuming at 7:30 p.m.

MR. LASKIN: Ladies and gentlemen, I would  
like to welcome you to the evening session of the first  
preliminary meeting here in Kenora of the Royal Commission





on the Northern Environment. We've got a fairly lengthy and heavy schedule this evening so that we will begin right away.

10 Mr. Warner Troyer, who presented part of his presentation this afternoon and over the dinner hour, is going to continue his presentation this evening and I believe with a very short five or six-minute film. Mr. Troyer.

MR. TROYER: Thank you very much.

20 The video-tape that I'm going to show you now is - I don't remember the exact length because it's two years ago that I made it but it's I think under eight minutes.

The reason I want to show it to you - there are two reasons, Mr. Commissioner. First of all I'm going to be referring to the incident described in the film which concerns a small child named Keith Pahpasay in my brief and to some of the government responses to that incident.

30 Secondly, because the Commission is tomorrow going to Whitedog where I know you are going to meet Marcelle Pahpasay, this child's father, who is going to be speaking to you and making a presentation to you. I thought that regardless of the response to my comments on this incident it might be useful background.

40 So, with that brief explanation and with an apology because this piece of film having run on a show called the "The Fifth Estate" several months after the film we saw at the supper hour has some repetitious material in it of necessity for people who may not have seen the earlier film and I apologize for that.

(Film shown to Commission Hearing)



MR. LASKIN: Mr. Troyer.

MR. TROYER: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. As you probably noted I had a head cold when I recorded the commentary for that last piece of video-tape and it's back two years later and I apologize for that, and as I said this afternoon I'm here partly in response to Dr. Maynard of Ear Falls, who, when he testified before this Commission in November, asked why irresponsible journalists like Warner Troyer didn't care enough to come back to this part of the world and talk about the problems here.

"Perhaps I might begin by tabling, as an exhibit, ten copies of my book, No Safe Place. As it contains a mass of documentation which no oral brief to this Commission could encompass I will presume to hope the Commission will find some opportunity to examine the closely documented record of governmental and industrial apathy, ineptitude, confusion and mismanagement it sets out.

"As a journalist I am not inhibited by the political tradition that prevents the admission of error, even when that error may damage other people, so I am freely able to tell you that I found three factual errors in the manuscript of this book subsequent to its being locked-in by the printer; they will be corrected if the sales should generate a need for further editions; in the meantime, and to set the record straight, they are as follows:

"1. The manuscript states incorrectly,



"in a footnote, that the constituency of the Hon. George Kerr includes, rather than abuts on, the City of Hamilton.

10 "2. Second, subsequent to the completion of the manuscript, but prior to publication of the book, - and contrary to information given my researchers and myself, a water control dam intended to protect the wild rice crops at the White-dog reserve was completed and made ready for operation.

20 "3. Thirdly, the government-operated Holst Point fishing camp is not located on Tetu Lake, as suggested in the text. The fact the site was incorrectly described to me by an employee of the Ontario Department of Natural Resources does not, I fear, absolve me from checking the exact location. The camp is, in fact, sited on the Winnipeg River. Guests at the camp generally are taken to fish in Sand Lake; and figures on mercury contamination in wall-eye and northern pike in that lake, as published by the Ontario Department of the Environment last spring, average from 150 to 200% over maximum safe levels for animal or human consumption, and therefore confirm and re-  
30 inforce the conclusions in the book in respect of Holst Point Lodge. The other data referring to Holst Point are accurate.

40



10 "A word about why this Commission,  
established to study a proposal for the exploi-  
tation of boreal forest, should concern itself  
with industrial pollution, mercury contaminated  
fish and two small communities with citizens  
suffering the symptoms and dangers of Minamata  
Disease: With industrial and resource develop-  
ment as with justice, - or with the state of a  
national economy, the social and political mood  
of the times is critical; public confidence is a  
major component in any successful government  
20 policy. And the experience of the past eight  
years in this area provides an ideal test-tube  
in which to study the steady erosion of public  
faith in both government and industry; in that  
sense the issue of mercury poisoning among the  
people of Whitedog and Grassy Narrows involves  
all the people of Ontario and may have conse-  
30 quences even more tragic than those involved in  
the miscarriages, deaths by pneumonia, exposure,  
heart disease, infectious disease and alcohol-  
related violence, suicide and accident all  
attributable to mercury poisoning, as you will  
find documented in the appendices of my book.

40 "One might say that the Davis govern-  
ment of Ontario has done for public confidence  
in the reliability of politicians about what  
the Boston strangler did for door-to-door  
salesmen.

"Emotional control is the fashion now-  
adays and we've come to worship the cool,





"unflappable personality. Moreover, people committed to seeking redress of a social problem, be they teachers, journalists or anyone else, know they risk losing all credibility if they appear to be strident, hysterical or polemic. But Edmund Burke noted that there is a point beyond which forbearance ceases to be a virtue, and I think we do ourselves a disservice by giving the politicians and the industrialists exclusive rights to pious statements and protestations of moral and ethical inspiration. So I propose, in this presentation, to risk a few adjectives, to confess my total and profound disgust with the failure of my government, and yours. In short, I am going to speak plainly and at the risk of leaving an impression, a correct impression, that I have some personal opinions and have endured some private agony over the obscene treatment accorded my friends at Grassy Narrows and Whitedog.

"There is a reason for plain speaking that goes beyond private inclination and that goes far, I think, to describe a fundamental need and purpose of this Commission. These hearings, and the reports of this Commission, have a very large educative potential for the people of Ontario. We can all learn from you and from your activities, sir, in two ways: First, through the data being presented to you; and second, through your response to that data. This Commission, if the government will attend to it, can begin the progress of restoring



"public belief in public men by recommending and insisting on measures to alleviate the distress of people in this area, to squarely assign and compensate for the irresponsible activity which opened this Pandora's box, and to develop safeguards which will prevent more outbreaks of Minamata Disease or similar disasters in future. But I feel impelled to add, with respect, that not even this Commission will retain credibility for long unless it soon seeks and publicly attains the assurances of the Davis government that its deliberations will be heeded and its recommendations implemented. I, for one, no longer believe a government which cynically refuses to close a poisoned waterway to sports fishing, - a government which callously operates a fishing lodge at which guests are systematically exposed to the hazards of eating poisoned fish declared unfit for human or animal consumption by the government's own experts; - I no longer believe that government will have much interest, sir, in any critical or remedial recommendations you might make. If you persuaded this government, for example, to close the affected areas of the English and Wabigoon River systems to sports fishing as a gesture of good faith while you complete your work; if you persuaded this government to compensate the individuals whose lives and livelihoods have clearly been violated by mercury contamination and then to seek redress from the polluter, then both this Commission and the government would gain enormously in public esteem. But



"I am not optimistic of your chances, sir, dealing with the government which, after seven years of hollering "cop" has just settled, - out of court, - in its suit against that other noteworthy Ontario mercury polluter, Dow Chemical.

"Nor can one be comfortable about the protection afforded us by a government which has consistently failed to be candid with us about this problem. Even in its private utterances and subjective reflections one is left with a sense of outrage and frustration. In stating last May, for example, that he would not close these poisoned waterways to protect the area residents and visiting sports fishermen, Premier William Davis told reporters he guessed he would, in his words, 'have to live with my conscience'. What that meant, of course, is that the people of Grassy Narrows and Whitedog are having to live with his conscience, as are all the rest of Ontario's taxpayers who are, after all, shareholders in Holst Point Lodge. Most of us find that an uncomfortable life-style.

"It is a frequently made rhetorical, political point that, in a just society, no man is truly free when one man is unjustly imprisoned; we pay lip service, too, to the principle that a civilization can best be judged by its treatment of its least advantaged citizen: Looking at the 1,200 Indians imprisoned in an economy of failure and a





"culture of despair imposed on them by industrial and governmental indifference and fearful for the health and lives of their children, born and unborn, one would, using those two rhetorical yardsticks, have to characterize Ontario society as a cesspool, - and acknowledge that each of us who crosses the road to avoid encountering our injured brother is a Phillistine, a hypocrite and, maybe worse, an accomplice after-the-fact in this peculiar act of social genocide-by-default. As Andrew Hamilton noted on August 4, 1735; 'When our neighbour's house is on fire, we ought to take care for our own.'

"It's time, I think, that we expanded that very healthy principle enunciated thirty years ago, at Nuremburg, - namely that all of us, not just military employees, should be bound by the notion that we have a loyalty more profound than that of simple obedience to our employer. Those of us who fail to warn our fellows of the deadly assaults made on them by industry, who fail to publish available data of common danger to us, should be prosecuted as public nuisances and people criminally negligent in respect of the public welfare."

And, if I may make an aside, sir, I do not absolve my own colleagues and trade from that description and that's why I'm here. Journalists are the most privileged people probably in our society. We are able to go places, meet people and witness events in ways which are not open to anyone else in society. We have, I think, a further respon-



sibility to report everything we saw when we get back and to report our responses.

10 "Moreover it's time we stopped assuming all industries and chemicals are innocent until proven guilty and began to require evidence-in-advance, as we do with foods and drugs, of safe operation and hazard-free substances. We can begin by remembering that governments and industries, like other simple biological organisms, are neither good nor bad, morally or ethically; like the amoeba and the DNA molecule, they have just one unquestionable motivation - survival.

20 "We must clearly define the ground rules under which we are prepared to permit their continued existence. They are not evil, not made up of "bad" people; but they are, in these terms, amoral and, in ethical terms, castrates.

30 "It's that answer that I give when I am asked, more frequently than any other question, why government has permitted the mercury poisoning situation to endure without effective study and remedial action for eight years. Many people ask me whether I think government is 'in the hip pocket' of industry; whether relations between the two are too close - even whether there are personal or financial ties beyond the obvious self-interest involved in swimming-with-the-main-current, whether as a local newspaper publisher or a member of Ontario's Legislature. 40 My answer to those questions is, 'No.' I don't think such imputations are helpful, nor do I



"think them ever likely to be borne out by factual documentation.

10 "It's true that Richard Nixon, Francis Fox and some others have helped us learn that difficult truth: That even "good guys" tell lies, that there are very few black hats and white hats left in society, that varying shades of grey are the prevailing fashion. But I doubt the existence of financial corruption; indeed, on the record in regard to this problem, there is no need: The amount of ostentatious  
20 fumbling and monumental ineptitude, - not to mention the dedication with which our public servants, elected and appointed, have worked to avoid accepting any responsibility for anything and, with even-handed fairness, avoided assigning responsibility to anyone else, either, excepting of course the reporters who have  
30 noticed the naked emperor of the North, make it clear our industrial polluters could never dream of actually buying a better political shield than the one already in place.

40 "So no reflective or charitable critic would accuse the Ontario Davis government of collusion or complicity with industry in respect of that government's failure to protect the lives and livelihoods of Northwest Ontario citizens assailed by lethal industrial pollution. Campaign contributions by Reed Paper, for example, as recorded in the brief period since such matters have been subject to public scrutiny, scarcely





10 "demonstrate ethics-bending support levels  
either for the party which forms Ontario's  
present government or for the current legis-  
lative member in this area. To infer other  
hidden or corrupt associations would be point-  
less. For, despite the initial difficulty for  
any of us, other than students of abnormal  
psychology, in attempting to understand the  
motives behind the absence of government will  
to preserve the dignity and destiny of people  
in this area, several explanations other than  
simple, venal cupidity are possible and they  
20 could include any of the following, singly or  
in combination:

"1. Profound and all-encompassing stupidity.

30 "2. A conviction that Indian voters of this  
area, who clearly expressed their dis-  
satisfaction with a government which has  
abandoned them, at last May's election, poll  
by poll, are regarded as insignificant  
politically, socially and economically in  
the larger scheme of Ontario events.

40 "3. An all-pervading fear, as is often common  
with insecure employees and also, perhaps,  
with minority governments, of confessing any  
previous failure fully to comprehend the  
enormity of a problem. This explanation  
would not, of course, explain the terminal  
apathy so ably demonstrated by Queen's Park  
inaction on this issue between the autumn of  
1969 and the election returns of September 1975.





10 "4. A stubborn perversion of the Cleopatra syndrome, - in which the bearers of ill-tidings are executed and their messages ignored, - with the intention of "punishing" all those drawing attention to this man-made disaster by refusing to deal with reality in a cynical attempt to discredit these "messengers" by denying their evidence.

20 "5. An utter and unremitting lack of confidence in the scientists and researchers employed by Queen's Park who have consistently described and defined the nature of the problem, this coupled with a sublime confidence, - so far entirely justified, - that these publicly-paid guardians will generally see political loyalty to be their main priority for survival and therefore decline to warn and protect those of us who pay their salaries, if there is any risk of contradicting their masters at Queen's Park.

40 "6. A mathematically-computed conclusion that a half-dozen small fishing camps on the affected waterways, accommodating an aggregate of perhaps 150 guests and including one operated on our behalf by our government, at Holst Point, have more intrinsic economic and political value than the dignity or the lives of twelve-hundred or so Indian residents of two small villages.

"7. A sublime faith in the short attention span of Ontario voters and journalists coupled with



"an inner assurance that most of us don't much care, really, about Indians anyway.

"8. An unshakeable belief in the Divine Spirit of Industry.

"9. A child-like hope, - common to most immature personalities and chronic bingo players and lottery plungers, - that hoping-for-the-best is a valid substitute for dealing with reality.

"10. A total indifference to the suffering of a people not easily visible from the heady environs of Queen's Park.

"11. A vocational aberration, fairly common among public men who have ingested too much royal jelly, that "image" is everything so, as appearances outweigh substance, it is more than enough to speak, publicly and sincerely, of solutions, understanding, of course, that they need not actually be initiated or applied.

"12. An ignorance, wilfull or resulting from genuine intellectual incapacity, which has persuaded the whole of the Davis cabinet that everything really is proceeding for the best in the best of all possible worlds and thereby generating the delusions-of-adequacy evident in the statements on this issue emanating from that august body.

"I should add that my views are apparently more charitable than those either of my journalistic Colleagues or of the public at large. A case in



"point is the federal government study at Sudbury, "leaked" to the press in November, which said: '.....many citizens in the Sudbury area had the general feeling that there is collusion taking place between Inco and Falconbridge and government officials. A look at the powerful legal remedies available ... and the void in government-initiated prosecutions gives credence to this feeling.'

"Nor do assurances from Premier William Davis and Environment Minister George Kerr that Ontario has the best pollution control and health protection legislation in the world give rise to much confidence. Vicy France, after all, had the first good Samaritan legislation in history: and Nazi Germany had model social welfare laws. It is the will to enforce the laws, as demonstrated by the resources and priorities assigned to them, that talks, not the bare or barren statutes. I'd like to quote, in that regard, something said by Alexis de Tocqueville in January, 1848. He said:

"'It is not the mechanism of law that produces great events, but the inner spirit of government .... Keep the laws as they are, if you wish ... Keep the men, too, if it gives you any pleasure ... But in God's name change the spirit of government for ... that spirit will lead you to the abyss.'

"Last May the Hon. George Kerr appeared with me on television and when I displayed a large northern pike which I said was representa-





10 "tive of the poisoned fish of the English/  
Wabigoon system he accused me of sensationalism  
and he offered to wager me a bottle of scotch  
that the fish, taken from that water system 48  
hours earlier, was safe to eat. I subsequently  
had it tested by a respected laboratory whose  
report I can make available to the Hon. Minister.  
It gives me no great pleasure to inform him,  
through you, that the fish contained over five  
times the maximum safe level of mercury and  
that he owes me a bottle of malt scotch. How-  
ever, since his wager was apparently made in a  
20 spirit of bravado for its effect on the press  
covering his TV appearance on that day, it's  
fair that the test results should be made  
publicly available. Fair, too, to note that the  
way our public representatives have used trucu-  
lence, half-truth and mis-direction to confuse  
the press and, through them, the public:

30 "When a possible case of congenital  
Minamata Disease was located in March, 1976, for  
example, and we've just seen a video-tape report  
of that case, Dr. Bette Stephenson, then acting  
Health Minister, told Queen's Park reporters the  
description of the boy as a possible victim of  
congenital Minamata Disease was irresponsible  
40 since, first, he had a very low mercury blood  
level at age five and, second, he was a victim  
of cerebral palsy. The Hon. Minister, a former  
president of the Canadian Medical Association,  
failed to add that, a) The child had been  
institutionalized for more than two years so



"that, having eaten no contaminated fish during that time, any high blood mercury levels at birth or before would long since have disappeared or, b) that "cerebral palsy" is a grab-bag medical description for any brain damage occurring shortly before or after birth, - a precise though simplified description of congenital Minamata Disease. Such deceits-by-deletion may temporarily confuse the public; their long term effect can only be to further erode public respect for public figures. If cabinet ministers are going to function as 'hit men,' voters have a right to expect that such lethal activities be conducted to protect public health rather than protecting industrial, political or bureaucratic sensibilities.

"Last December 8, Dr. Stephenson, now Ontario's Labour Minister, was again generating scepticism in respect of her candor when, in denying reports that a definite case of Minamata Disease had been diagnosed from among 28 brain and organ tissue samples studied by the government she told the Ontario Legislature .. "no evidence" of mercury poisoning had been found; however, Dr. Stephenson mentioned only 22 samples, not the 28 described in news reports. She gave no data on the six other samples. Nor did she disclose or describe the fact that closer to 50 than 22 post mortem tissue samples have been collected from Grassy Narrows and Whitedog areas by the government. Nor did Dr. Stephenson, in "skipping" those 20



10 "or 30 unreported samples say what results were  
obtained from them. Dr. Stephenson might have  
told the Legislature that no test results are  
available yet from even one of the brain tissue  
samples collected in all of 1977; she did not.  
Dr. Stephenson might have said the post mortem  
tests were made, not on the individuals most  
likely to have been exposed to mercury poison-  
ing, but merely on those who were "handiest";  
the tissue samples were collected almost  
exclusively from cadavers which were already  
20 "coroner's cases" because of violent or acci-  
dental death. She did not. Dr. Stephenson  
might have said that the government's desultory  
test program was not even begun until late 1975,  
six years after the dangers were known. She  
might have revealed reports, inside her depart-  
ment, that the single pathologist who has  
operated the programme since August 1975, Dr.  
30 Lesbia Smith, is unlikely to be replaced follow-  
ing her departure from the government service  
last December 9. Sources close to the programme  
tell me it may be allowed to end because of a  
"political decision." She divulged none of  
these data. Dr. Stephenson did deny, vehemently,  
40 allegations that a first report on the tests she  
revealed, - only those done in 1976 - another  
piece of data she withheld - had been suppressed  
because it identified a Minamata Disease victim.  
There had not been two reports, said the Labour  
Minister; what there had been were "two drafts  
of the report to date." Meanwhile her colleague,





"The Hon. George Kerr, was reported playing at, 'shoot-the-messenger' and in that same week in December is said to have personally interrogated and berated upwards of twenty of his own Environment Department officials in efforts to plug press leaks in that organization. Neither Dr. Stephenson's righteous indignation nor Mr. Kerr's angry, not to say frantic, witch-hunt serves to encourage public comfort in the credibility of the most recent fragments of government data on mercury poisoning. But public and private tantrums by members of our cabinet do serve one squalid cause: As with a stage magician's theatrical gestures, they help misdirect our attention from what's really going on. In Mr. Kerr's internal tirades against his staff as in Dr. Stephenson's noisy and self-righteous indignation with reporters and opposition critics one may easily see living examples of the injunction scribbled in the margin of his sermon notes by the aging parson: 'Point weak, pound pulpit.'

"A major reason for the government's ability to duck both reality and responsibility is the cynically encouraged confusion over the nature and extent of the hazard created by mercury poisoning - mercury pollution, pardon me. Fortunately for those who wish to see the record both straight and clear, government apologists tend to be less than models either of penetrating intelligence or diligent research. One might refer to the then federal minister of Health, the Hon. John Munro's remark to a





10 "colleague, in a letter, that there was reason  
to believe Indians had a higher tolerance for  
mercury poisoning than whites, - or to the  
Hon. Leo Bernier's characterization of the  
world's leading and most experienced scientists  
in respect of Minamata Disease, the Japanese  
who visited Canada, as a 'bunch of travelling  
troubadors.' I might refer all of them to Dr.  
Dennis Wheatley, the man in charge of the  
Ottawa health department efforts in this field  
for the past 5 years, who stated publicly and  
for the record, last May, that in his view  
20 there was no longer any question about the  
definite presence of Minamata Disease among  
Indians at Whitedog and Grassy Narrows."

30 If I may I will simply repeat that Dr. Wheatley  
is a man who has been in charge of the Federal Department of  
Health's program in respect of mercury poisoning for more than  
five years. He is as his colleagues will tell you, an  
exceedingly conservative man, in parenthesis, small "c".

40 "...Paradoxically, although Ontario  
Resources Minister, the Hon. George Kerr, was  
present on that occasion, and went so far him-  
self as to recommend closing of the affected  
river systems to sports fishing, he has failed,  
since, to persuade his cabinet colleagues of  
the validity of either of those points of view.  
One is moved to speculate, given the further  
evidence of Leo Bernier's very bulky brief to  
this Commission, that the cabinet communicates  
rather poorly at Queen's Park and thus finds



"it necessary to seek outside forums of this sort to engage the attention of the Premier of Ontario.

10 "One of the least ept of all government/industry apologists I've had the sadness of encountering to date was the estimable Dr. Maynard who had the courtesy to introduce me to this Commission in spirit, at least, as a part of his presentation in Ear Falls last November. One might say that neither industry nor government, with friends like that, have much need of critics. I'd like to deal briefly with some of the more underwhelming aspects of the good doctor's presentation, - partly because he disputes data gathered by me for the book I've placed before you as an exhibit, partly through my simple anxiety that the educative value of this Commission's hearings not be  
20 blatantly distorted or perverted through the mis-statement of fact. In regard to mercury and mercury poisoning, I will attempt to demonstrate that any relationship between Dr. Maynard's presentation and the truth was, at best, coincidental:

40 "As Senator Hiram Johnson told the U.S. Congress in 1917, 'When war comes, truth is the first casualty.' And the Ontario government, in company with its claue of aplogists on this issue, insists on treating the matter as a political war rather than an urgent public responsibility to safeguard Ontario lives.



"Dr. Maynard's oral and written submissions to this Commission amply illustrate the perfectly understandable conclusion that the training and experience of the average GP do not encourage research disciplines or skills. I doubt, for instance, that Dr. Maynard deliberately sought to offend my family by dropping the last two letters from my name in his presentation. I did do some research on the good doctor who so proudly told this Commission he and his wife were both fourth generation Canadians. The fact that I am a ninth generation Canadian, descended from Dr. John Troyer, who was the first homesteader of Upper Canada, as it was then, fills me with vast amusement when I speak with my Ojibway friends whose people were here when my forebears, and those of Dr. Maynard, still thought they'd fall off the edge if they sailed too far around the world. Sometimes I wonder how far some scientists have progressed since then.

"The Commission will be happy to know that a scrutiny of Dr. Maynard's professional career, from his graduation in Alberta in 1953, through his employment in the emergency ward of the Hamilton General Hospital 12 years later until his current two-part practice, divided, - as it is - between Ear Falls and Florida, is a clean sheet: Almost a blank sheet, one might say, with no single disciplinary blemish or special notice evident. As a member of the 'courtesy staff,' of the Hamilton General





10 "hospital from 1967 until 1973, for example, -  
the third highest grade of hospital privilege  
offered there, Dr. Maynard had full and  
respected rights to admit his medical patients  
although, as he is not a Fellow of the Royal  
College of Surgeons, he had no operating  
privileges of course, a fact possibly unknown  
to the dog who was, as he told you in November,  
his first surgical patient after his arrival,  
in 1974, at Ear Falls.

20 "Dr. Maynard does not, of course, have  
any specialist qualifications. Insofar as his  
medical colleagues could ascertain, he has no  
experience, practical or academic, in the fields  
of industrial medicine, chemistry or toxicology.  
Accordingly, his views on mercury and mercury  
poisoning were variously described during  
research interviews with some of his professional  
30 peers as, 'insubstantial,' 'irrelevant,' and,  
'lightweight.'

"Some examples, if I may presume:

10 "1. Dr. Maynard told you that mercury,  
'usually found in liquid form ... virtually  
anywhere ... being heavy and liquid runs from  
mountain tops to low places.' Not true. Mercury,  
in the natural state, is imprisoned in cinnabar  
ore and can be extracted or recovered only by  
temperatures higher than 357.3 degrees centri-  
grade, as a vapour, which is then condensed or  
distilled to capture the heavy, liquid metal.  
When there is little oxygen, as in underground



"and river-bottom geological formations from which mercury is supposed to 'seek its way,' his words, into our environment, this vapourization would require temperatures above 580 degrees centigrade.

10 "2. Said Dr. Maynard: 'Hot air is much more damaging than mercury.' Hard to credit, since oxidized mercury, or mercuric chloride, will kill in doses as low as one-quarter of one gram; as Dr. Maynard would know, it would require 113 lethal doses of that size to make up a single ounce of mercury. Scarcely harmless. The fact that mercuric chloride was the most common vehicle of suicide in the U.S. before the availability of barbi-  
20 turates effectively deals with Dr. Maynard's suggestion that, 'a medical profession would not endorse the presence of a pollutant in a thermometer which we put in people's mouths every day.' - not to mention what happens to infants. One assumes most physicians do not expect their patients to bite through their fever thermometer and then cheerfully swallow its contents.

30 "3. Dr. Maynard continually stresses that mercury, 'is harmless as a natural element'. Not much consolation, that, to the literally, literally thousands of miners who have died in agony from mercury poisoning in Spain and in the 17th, 16th Centuries in Peru in the course of extracting that 'harmless natural element' from  
40 nature.



10 "4. 'All the fish in the oceans virtually contain in their livers some amount of mercury' says the good doctor, and he adds, 'but mercury in this form as an element is harmless, both to the fish and to those who eat them.'

20 "An altogether wildly inaccurate diagnosis, unhappily. Firstly, mercury 'as an element,' is quite simply, a poison. Second, fish concentrate mercury in their muscle, the fillets we eat, not in their livers. It is we mammals who concentrate mercury in our organs. Thirdly, the Doctor totally ignores the bacterial process by which metallic or elemental mercury in water systems is transformed into the infinitely more deadily organic, methyl mercury before being taken up by the aquatic food chain.

30 "5. Dr. Maynard has, he told you, 'yet to see any documented case of Minamata Disease.' Nor is he likely to do so, unless he moves his practice from Ear Falls and Florida to Grassy Narrows and Whitedog, - or to Minamata. Or, heavens forbid, unless some of his current patients are moved to believe his incredible description of our 'perfectly clean Atlantic tuna,' and dine regularly on that fish. Should that happen Dr. Maynard will very likely both see and document some cases of Minamata Disease, should he be able to recognize them.

0 "6. A final point in respect of Dr.





"Maynard's testimony: Since he told you, and thereby the public, that I have, in his words, 'written a book - as indeed I have - and capitalized upon the royalties thereof,' I would like to say this, for the record: a) I have not yet had five cents in royalties from No Safe Place. b) I have had no compensation for the year of my time, a year of 70 and 80-hour work weeks, which I devoted to the book. c) My out-of-pocket research costs for the book totalled between \$16,000 and \$18,000 as measured against a publisher's advance of \$1,000 and an Ontario Arts Council grant of \$3,000. My net cash loss, therefore, has been between \$12,000 and \$14,000, exclusive of one year of my time. If all the copies of the book now in print are sold I expect to recover a substantial fraction of my cash outlay, in devalued 1979 dollars, not the 1975 dollars I spent; I do not ever expect to make a cent in compensation for my time and work, and I think it's fair, too, to tell this Commission, because I feel no shame in this matter, that my present personal financial circumstances have been very severely and adversely affected by the fact I did not seek or undertake regular employment and income while I was writing this book and I have no complaint about that. I agree with Dr. Maynard that human misery is a shabby and degrading tool for the enrichment of anyone. I expect most physicians would agree with him, and





"with me, on that score.

"However, I have nothing but contempt for the description by a man who has made no such commitments of a colleague, of Dr. Peter Newberry, a fine physician who lived with the people of Grassy Narrows and shared their hardships and austere life-style for two years, - and who literally saved God knows how many lives and prevented immeasurable suffering, - as I say, I have nothing but contempt for a professional colleague who would, in a written submission to this Commission, describe that decent, skilled and gentle man as, 'a medical doctor, I use the word loosely ...'

"As for Dr. Maynard's charge that my 'efforts,' in this matter have been like those of other journalists whom he mistrusts, 'to do with their own well being,' - it makes one to laugh.

Now I know, Mr. Commissioner, that the head will not absorb what the seat will not endure. I've no wish to lower your pain threshold and so I shall try to finish quickly. There are just two further points I'd like to make very briefly:

"There is, first, the suggestion that people who have pointed out the nature of the mercury problem are hurting all of Northwest Ontario, penalizing the innocent by giving the area a 'bad name.' It is, sir, mercury contamination which is the source of the evil



"tidings, not the reporters of its existence. And the innocent - all of them - would immediately begin to be spared if the government closed the affected waterways to sports fishing. Then anyone wishing to holiday and fish in this area could know, that in any waters on which they were allowed to fish, they were safe from the crippling killer known as Minamata Disease. Of course, sports fishermen who have learned they are not being warned of dangers where they are known by government to exist will shy away from any associated area. People of this area whose livelihoods are being hurt should direct their anger at Queen's Park, not at the editorial board rooms of Ontario. It is government that has been too weak to resolve the problem. Edmund Burke was never more clearly proved right than in this situation when he told the British Parliament that, 'Nothing turns out to be so oppressive and unjust as a feeble government.'

"Secondly, and finally, sir, there are the charges that the people of Whitedog and Grassy Narrows lack enterprise and initiative, that they have little interest in solving their own problems."

After some of today's presentations and the eloquence of this afternoon I must confess to a massive attack of humility in appearing here at all tonight.

"...They are able to speak well for



10 "themselves and they don't need my feeble  
endorsement as to their dedication or their  
energy. But, sir, they have had eight years  
of literal terror in this matter. Even if  
the federal government proceeds with an epi-  
demiological survey now planned - finally -  
they'll see no report, let alone action, in  
less than three years more; they have been  
warned to expect no results from your  
deliberations, sir, for eighteen months or  
longer; their history is one of hope post-  
20 poned - of frustration and delay. Even the  
necessary cancellation of your hearings here  
last month was another blow to morale and  
expectation. For the Ojibway people,  
political lip service to the theory that  
justice delayed is justice denied is only a  
bad PR slogan. Dr. Samuel Johnson put it  
30 well, sir. He said, 'Where there is no hope,  
there can be no endeavour.'

"The Ojibway have been attending meet-  
ings, listening to counselling on the virtues  
of patience and moderation for more than 200  
years, since before Burke noted that, 'Good  
men do not suspect that their destruction is  
10 attempted through their virtues.'

"If I have taken too much of the  
Commission's time I would apologize, but I  
would also repeat that the people of Grassy  
Narrows and Whitedog have been waiting and  
listening, now, for eight years. They are,





10 "with all of us, everywhere in Ontario, waiting to discover what this Commission will be able to reveal of the government's priorities. We want to know whether this government means to protect the lives and futures of its people or simply to maintain the status quo and avoid political embarrassment. That will be the definitive test, sir. For, as another man said, speaking to a multitude almost 2,000 years ago:

20 "'Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'

"Thank you, sir, for your patience, for your attention, and for the devotion, skill and intelligence with which I believe this Commission will discharge its very heavy mandate."

Thank you.

30 MR. LASKIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Troyer. I would like to mark a copy of your brief into our record as Exhibit 254 and a copy of your book also.

40 ---EXHIBIT NO.254:

Submission and Book entitled  
"No Safe Place" by Warner Troyer

MR. LASKIN: Ladies and gentlemen, there was one presentation which we didn't hear from this afternoon which was on this afternoon's schedule and that was the Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association, and I'd like to call on that presentation now which I believe will be made



by Miss Brenda Prouty who will be assisted by Mr. Gerry Guimond.

Haven't I got the numbers right?

BRENDA PROUTY

10 Your Honour, members of the Commission, ladies  
and gentlemen. "My name is Brenda Prouty and I am a  
member of the Ontario Metis and Non-Status  
Indian Association. I am pleased to speak  
today for the Metis and Non-Status Indian  
20 people, Zone 1 of the Ontario Metis and  
Non-Status Indian Association.

"Most of our people don't know much  
about this Commission as yet. What we do  
know most definitely is the affect of the  
economy on our lives but we have decided to  
present this brief in order to introduce our  
30 people to your inquiry and to tell you who  
we are and why we believe it is important  
for us to have a voice in these proceedings  
over the next few years.

"The Ontario Metis and Non-Status  
Indian Association is made up of five zones.  
I am speaking for our people in Zone 1.  
This covers the area bounded by Raith  
40 in the east as far west as the Manitoba  
border and from the U.S. border in the  
south to as far north as the Metis and non-  
status Indian people live. In other words  
the area covered by Treaty 3 and the western



"area of Treaty 9.

10 "There are differences between our local organizations in this area. Some people speak English as a first language, others speak Ojibway. Some of us have formal education, others have very little or none. Some of us have decent housing, most of us don't. Some of us have stable jobs, most of us try to exist on the edge of the labour market. But even with this variety we find that the problems facing Metis and non-status Indian people are the same throughout this area of Zone 1.

20 "You will notice that I speak for our people both north and south of the 50th parallel.

30 "If trees are cut north of Red Lake and a new mill<sup>is</sup> built at Ear Falls our people around the Dryden area will live with the effects.

40 "We don't recognize this imaginary line at the 50th. Is it an attempt to lump Kenora, Vermilion Bay, Dryden and Dinorwic with Toronto as opposed to Red Lake and Sioux Lookout? This has been one of our major problems in the past; too many people drawing imaginary lines through our lives.

50 "We are here today as a group because of these imaginary divisions someone drew down east some years ago. Let me tell you how these lines have crossed the lives of non-status



10 "Indian people. It is a strange definition of  
a man or a woman, a non-status Indian, as  
defined by the dictionary: It means an Indian  
with 'no positive position in relation to  
other people'. We could say this is an Indian  
but not an Indian, a non-Indian Indian. Can  
you imagine explaining or trying to explain to  
your children who they are as people with that  
label? But it is true, non-status Indian people  
are Indian people who are not recognized as  
Indian people by law. They have no rights to  
20 their birthright as the first people of this  
land.

30 "This imaginary line has crossed non-  
status Indian lives in different ways: Some of  
our ancestors just did not get on the Treaty  
list when it was finalized; others refused to  
sign it as it meant accepting the European view  
that the land could not be sold or signed over.  
They knew it was not a thing owned by people,  
the land was the land and the people belonged  
to it. Some families were in Treaty at some  
time in the past but they got lost. Perhaps  
a secretary got tired of typing! Possibly the  
40 pen ran out of ink at that point! And suddenly  
they were Indian but not Indian.

"In other cases the line was more  
consciously drawn. You know that Canadian  
Indians became citizens in the 1920's but they  
did not get the vote and the right to buy  
alcohol until much later in the 50's. Before





10 "they had these rights some of our people  
enfranchised themselves out of Treaty. I  
think you would agree that the phrase  
"enfranchised out of Treaty" is a mind-  
bender. We know that when you enfranchise  
yourself you gain citizenship or you are  
freed and liberated from slavery. With  
Indian people their slavery or Treaty  
status is also their birthright. This so-  
called liberation or enfranchisement meant  
that we had to lose all rights as Native  
people. This is the opposite to liberation.

20 "After many of our men returned  
from active duty in the Services in the  
Second World War they enfranchised them-  
selves so they could have full rights as  
citizens.

30 "With other people poverty led to  
alcohol abuse and they left Treaty because  
of their addiction so they could have the  
privilege of buying alcohol or sitting in a  
bar to drink it; it was a very expensive  
booze. And for many years now, everyone has  
had this dubious honour of buying alcohol.  
The most touching illustration in our personal  
catalogue of how our people lost their birth-  
right is of our women who married non-Treaty  
husbands and automatically became non-Indians  
themselves. By doing this their children were  
not born out of wedlock, they were not bastards,  
merely non-Indians. Over the years this has



"placed women in an extremely difficult position, a legal and a moral catch.

"For these reasons and others non-status Indian people crossed, were pushed across that imaginary line and became tenants in the land of their forefathers; people without a place, and I am not just speaking metamorphically.

"Many of the pictures of the housing in Nany Morrison's photo album show non-status Indian people just as she is herself.

"Our group represents both the Metis and non-status Indian people; you might say we're different hues of the same shade. At each extreme it appears like two colours but most of us are somewhere in between.

"We Metis are the half-breeds, we are the social development which resulted from the first economic developments in this area. The Metis are proof that there has been some secondary industry in this area in the past. The Metis were so well established along the Rainy River in 1873 that they were instrumental in bringing about Treaty 3 so much so that the government had to negotiate to include them in the Treaty. Stuck in the back of your copy of the Treaty you will find the half-breed adhesion. In effect this adhesion created status Indian-Metis people around Fort Frances. We also have status Indian-Metis people and non-status Indian-Metis people in this area. We represent the non-



"status Indian - the non-status Metis if you will.

10 "When we were preparing this brief we asked each other: Who are you? One of our members said, well, if someone asked me: Are you an Indian? I would say: Yes, I'm an Indian with no reservation. One Elder said: We are people in the middle, and his son replied: Yes, in the middle of nowhere. The clearest explanation came from one woman when she said: We are little people. She was not referring to size, as you must realize after 20 several months in the north but to the lack of any political or economic power held or exercised by the Metis and non-status Indian people in this region.

30 "The Metis as a non-status Indian people are interested in living in stable communities; in ensuring long-term satisfying work and in being able to provide the necessities of life for our basic families: Decent housing, education, food and other basics. We are not a transient population. Most of us prefer to live in our small communities and most of us prefer to work out-of-doors on the land. It is through this kind of life that we maintain our values of people and pass them on to our children. We do not think that this is asking too much. We want no more than what every individual should have for a meaningful, happy life. But that standard is not often attained. We are working poor and the unemployed.





"One member has joked that our poverty itself has become an important natural resource.

"Alcohol and alcoholism are a significant source of revenue and employment in north-western Ontario.

10 "In many cases we stay poor because we are constantly squeezed out of jobs as we don't have formal education and we are Indian. But where are the meaningful adult education programs: In Thunder Bay, Toronto, Winnipeg. Immigrants coming to Toronto are introduced to a variety of courses to help them adjust and  
20 establish themselves in the society and economy of Ontario. Should a person coming from Pikangikum, coming to Red Lake, apply from outside the country to learn English and basic town life skills? These are very serious questions about the society we live in.

30 "Some of our people have been cutting trees in the bush for years and today they cannot afford to buy the lumber to build a small house when they also have to buy a small piece of land to put it on. Before we often built on unorganized land; today the government policy  
0 does not allow this right.

"In practice the existing OHC rental projects are often rented to people with far higher incomes than most of our people without housing possess. The Ontario Rural and Native Housing Programs criteria do not allow that program in communities of over 2,500 in popula-



"tion or where the Ontario Housing Corporation has or plans a project. There is an urgent need for flexibility in the criteria of these agencies to meet regional needs so that people have somewhere to live.

10 "That group of our people who are fortunate to have jobs work mainly in the bush and in the mills, or they guide, commercial fish or trap and we supplement our incomes with wild rice picking and hunting. In all of these areas we are being pushed out.

20 "In the bush there has been a steady decline of the small third party contractors: The independent cutters on contract to the mills. In some cases this is because of union agreements, in others because these contractors cannot get decent timber limits from the Ministry of Natural Resources. This means we must now work mainly  
30 for the big companies. For some of our people this is satisfactory, but the loss of small, independent contractors mean it is increasingly difficult for an individual or group to set up by themselves. It means there is a loss of flexibility in bush employment. Many of our people require flexibility during that period  
40 when they are trying to establish themselves in the labour market. The big companies are too big to allow this. Even those who work for the big companies in the bush have to worry because of the increasing mechanization. In most cases we don't have formal education, we have skills and experiences that are not necessarily recog-



10 "nized. In some areas we see that the new machines break down often and in the end don't seem to cut more wood than the other crews, but we realize the machines can be written off for depreciation and a man's livelihood cannot.

20 "Guiding has always been a major seasonal activity: In the summer for fish and in the fall for game. Today there are many policies and practices which are working us out of jobs. On the one hand the government encourages non-resident campers throughout the development of parks; the practice of keeping and maintaining old logging roads - these were formally closed when no longer needed by companies. The lack of restrictions on non-resident fishing licences and the lack of encouragement for the use of the guide services and equipment for hunting and fishing by non-resident. 30 These non-resident campers on the other hand contribute nothing to our economy and they are often blatant exploiters of our fish and wildlife. Game wardens are an understaffed group.

40 "At the south end of the Lake of the Woods American outfitters are even operating day cruisers in Canadian waters from the American side of the lake. This is seriously effecting our employment at lodges in that area.



10 "Commercial fishing on the Lake of  
the Woods supports some of our families near  
Morson. Today a government plans to impose  
quotas on fishermen's catches of sports fish.  
Species will force most commercial fishermen  
out of business. We all know the lake is like  
a garden; if the weeds are not controlled the  
vegetables are soon choked out. How are the  
culled fish, the lakes weeds to be controlled  
without commercial fishing? What will happen  
20 to the sports fishing in the long-term if the  
fish balance is not maintained? And what  
employment is available for our former fisher-  
men?

30 "Another government policy currently  
proposes to open up the wild rice harvest as  
the potential of the harvest has supposedly  
never been realized. True, it hasn't. If our  
minds are focused on maximum exploitation and  
mechanization but that potential has been there  
for hundreds, maybe thousands of years, and it  
should be developed for the benefit of Native  
peoples of this region. There are dangers in  
hasty new policies especially when they contain  
the seed for the monopoly-control of this  
10 resource and will inevitably remove control and  
benefits from Native people. It's people of  
Native ancestries, whose livelihood and future  
depend on the land. We have a stake in the  
conservation and in the proper management of  
our resources into the future. If reforestation  
is behind we will be out of work in the future.





10 "If the game laws are blatantly ignored we won't have meat on our tables some years. This interest is in contrast to the interest of many investors and policy-makers. As one of our members has said: Those influential people who make these policies don't have to live with them. Many of our people will point out to you that outside investors, whether large or small do not have to have the same commitment to the region as the people who live here.

20 "You are investigating the effects of the economic development in order to map a plan for the future - our future. Development means improvement. We must ensure that new economic development occur with the participation of the people of the region and benefit the people of the region. We must give encouragement to local initiatives, especially where they lead to a diversification of the economy. We must see that the checks are maintained on outside investors so they do not conflict with the long-term interests of the region, and we must prepare to seriously assess the social as well as the economic costs of new developments. Would the loss of the Wabigoon and lower English Rivers be possibly too high a cost to pay. Can we afford to have this happen again?

30

40

"And this brings us to your inquiry which we believe must also become ours. We



10 "have heard you say that you are not certain if  
you should continue. If this is the best means  
to develop a plan for future economic develop-  
ments you may be right. But recognize, many of  
us have been going in circles for years; some  
of it downhill and this is our forum, not only  
to tell you of our experiences but also to have  
our complaints publicly aired. If they are valid  
they will stand, if they are not we might as well  
learn why.

20 "In conclusion, as Metis and non-status  
Indian people from Northwestern Ontario we have a  
responsibility to involve ourselves with this  
Commission for two reason:

30 "First, as a people our investment is  
tied up in this area and in our community, and  
the return on our investment, the present and  
future condition of our lives and those of our  
children in this area will always be largely  
determined by the nature and direction of economic  
development.

0 "Secondly, we have a responsibility as  
Metis and non-status Indian people with roots in  
both native and non-native cultures in this area  
to relate the history of our experiences with  
the past and the current developments. In many  
communities our people are living the juncture  
between economic and social development in this  
region. As a group we represent objective data  
for the inquiry. We will look forward to our  
next meeting."



We also have a list of recommendations that we would like - we think that would benefit you that we would like to turn in with our brief, when we turn it in instead of reading them now.

Thank you.

MR. LASKIN: Thanks, Brenda. You'll give us a copy of that brief later on?

---EXHIBIT NO.255:

Submission of the Ontario Metis and Non-status Indian Association.

MR. LASKIN: Our next speaker, although not on the printed schedule is Mayor Bob Kahoot of the Town of Keewatin and I understand will be making two presentations; one on behalf of the Town and one on behalf of the Town and the Township of Jaffray & Melick. Mayor Kahoot.

For the benefit of the Court Reporter it's K-A-H-O-O-T. Thank you.

MAYOR R. KAHOOT

"The Municipality of Keewatin and the Township of Jaffray and Melick representing approximately 5,500 citizens, are extremely pleased to have this opportunity to present our views to the Royal Commission on Northern Environment. We can fully empathize with the enormity of your task, because we, in this area, frequently have our difficulties in reaching a consensus on our common problems. We extend a warm welcome to the Commission and hope our contribution will assist in achieving





10 "a better understanding for all. While strong specific viewpoints exist in each separate municipality, nevertheless, Keewatin and Jaffray and Melick Councils remain strongly united in a common front of Northwestern Ontario concerns. We have collectively chosen to present our views in abridged form, in order to make our initial brief as straightforward as possible.

20 "1. We, as members of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, fully support and endorse the positions outlined in the Brief to the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment. We are in agreement with the Economic, Financial, Social Cultural, and Environmental views, respectfully submitted by our parent municipal organization, N.O.M.A.

30 "2. Central to our concern is full support for our major industries and in particular, the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited. This, our prime industry, is essential to our very existence.

10 "3. Therefore, our area is dependent upon a sufficient supply of wood, now and in the future. Planned strategies should encourage perpetual forest resources.

"4. Proper handling of all timber resources must be the responsibility of both private industry and government. All citizens of Northwestern Ontario should not willingly accept anything less.

"5. Councils are constantly concerned and



10 "frustrated by the major decisions which are made from a distance, and in an arbitrary manner. All matters of public concern to our citizens should be properly channelled through the elected councils. No one group should be allowed to unduly influence, negatively or positively, the majorities' right to a secure and prosperous future.

20 "6. The single purpose Wilderness Park Concept proposed in the case of the Atikaki Park, aroused swift and strong opposition from our councils. Proposals by special interest groups outside this area, which affect all of us, must recognize that 'meaningful participation' is absolutely essential. Local elected councils should not be placed in a position of reacting to proposals after the fact.

30 "7. We endorse the Municipal Advisory Committee's view that we all recognize the very real social and economic problems faced by our native peoples. The elected councils, who must deal directly each day with these matters, strongly recommend that the Provincial and Federal authorities attack these problems in a much more realistic manner. The present system is eroding any rapport which had been established between our native peoples and the rest of the community. It is our genuine desire to build greater trust between the native peoples and the municipalities of this area.



10 "8. There is a general concern that government accounting procedures have led many to believe that financial accountability from all groups is completely lacking. We believe this is causing serious concern among our citizens as they view government agencies, councils, bands, and organizations from the distance. Financial accountability is a must for all concerned.

20 "9. Industrial development is vital to the continuing growth and prosperity of this area. Social and Cultural development is a very necessary concomitant. Development and the Environment are both of vital concern to each and every citizen of Ontario.

30 "10. The potential for beneficial development "North of 50" is limitless. While it is recognized that the local inhabitants are most affected, let us not lose sight that potential resources belong to all Ontario citizens but conversely, we all share similar environmental and ecological concerns.

40 "May the Government of Ontario, upon receiving your final report, from Northwestern Ontario citizens, act in such a manner as to show that they truly understand the very nature of our area, relative to the environment and development."

50 This next brief is presented from the Town of Keewatin, and much of the views that were presented in the brief by the Town of Keewatin and the Township of



Jaffray & Melick are similar.

"The Municipal Council of the Town of Keewatin and its citizens, extend our welcome to the beautiful Lake of the Woods area. We are gratified by the Commission's decision to extend its hearings to this region.

"Keewatin is a small community of less than 1900 people, which historically depended on major industry and development for its existence. In the past, a substantial amount of the direct commercial base was dependent on the Lake of the Woods Milling Company. The Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited operations, along with its many working employees, were responsible for a major share of the necessary property taxes. This area, and in particular, Keewatin, has had a very enviable record of employment and achievement during the past century. In an economic climate, where many industries are having difficulty surviving, and indeed where industries have, through massive lay-offs, affected the lives of thousands, it is imperative that<sup>the</sup> full support by all residents deriving economic benefits, be voiced. Our Council joins the community in this support.

"The Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper mill, is, for many, their very existence. It is evident that our local mill has, in recent years, shown real concern over the ensured supply of wood for producing paper. We witness, on a daily basis, the many vehicles required to transport





"wood from great distances. Our community depends on the timber for our very livelihood. It must continue! The proper management of our environment and, in particular, the forests, is imperative. All people of Ontario should expect and accept nothing less than the proper policies which will enable a large degree of stability and permanence.

"The views of all people concerned with conservation and environment, are most important. While many groups are very vocal in their views, it is our position that the duly elected are charged with the responsibility to ensure that the majority views are recognized and acted upon.

"No one group or segment should be allowed to dictate the terms of any future development. Let the elected governments get on with making proper decisions on all our behalf.

"The very process of gathering information is indeed a costly one. Whether governments use Royal Commissions or government agencies as a vehicle, once all the relative information is collated, our Council supports greater government action. What must not be allowed to happen is that well-organized groups unduly influence, positively or negatively, necessary government action.

"Our municipalities have viewed, with great interest, the various accounts of past briefs given. Many of the problems expressed are similar in nature to those we, as municipal officials, bring to government attention for action. We would like to take this opportunity to express to all citizens that



"there are mechanisms in place to express citizen concerns. Municipal councils are prepared to assist individuals or groups who identify bonafide problems.

"Earlier this year, our Council passed a resolution specifically indicating that we did not support the Atikaki Wilderness Park. We stated our views publicly, in order to indicate to all that a proposal of this magnitude, which would affect us profoundly, had proceeded to the point where local councils responded after the fact. Proposals which do affect our immediate area, would find greater acceptance if full disclosure and consultation procedures were adopted.

"In Northwestern Ontario, and, Keewatin in particular, both Federal and Provincial governments must clarify their position when it comes to the jurisdictional responsibility pertaining to native people. Many communities are placed in an untenable position of dealing with native problems on an ad hoc basis. We share the Municipal Advisory Committee's view that the singling out of Natives for particular attention, is a racial one. This approach by government can only contribute to greater division of Northwestern Ontario. Our view is that both provincial and federal governments should address themselves to all citizens living within municipal borders. A common comment amongst municipal officials is that we do not have enough informa-



"tion or facts to make valid comparisons.

"Citizens comment on various programs given to Natives, without possessing factual information. At a time in our economic history, when financial accountability, proper management, and stability are imperative, all governments must realize their responsibilities to the public. We do not suggest that governments are providing services or attention to Natives at the expense of the non-Native community. To accomplish a planned and orderly community, our Council recognizes that a vehicle for communication is necessary. It is recognized that the social and economic circumstances of natives are a serious community problem. As an elected Council, we hope Federal and Provincial governments will recognize that total involvement by all will assist us in addressing ourselves to the very real problems of all Keewatin citizens. Services must continue to be delivered on the basis of need. High on our list is a desire to create an atmosphere of trust in all our dealings with government and our citizens.

"Our Council has in the past actively taken part in its parent organization, the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association. We support the Brief by N.O.M.A. The members of Council - Members of Council have individual concerns, but in particular, one concern we have is that Northwestern Ontario may become a dumping ground for nuclear waste. Why has





"there been no direct government contact with concerned municipal organizations in this area?

"The Town of Keewatin's Council favors development which allows all men to participate equally. Social development is a very necessary concomitant. Just as the natural resources belong to Ontario, let us not lose sight of the fact that the environment is of vital concern to every Ontario resident.

"This is one Royal Commission that the government - the Ontario Government must be prepared to act on."

Thank you very much.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much, Mr. Kahoot.

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Mayor. We will file a copy of both of your briefs as Exhibits 256 and 257 respectively.

---EXHIBIT NO.256: Submission of Town of Keewatin.

---EXHIBIT NO.257: Submission of Town of Keewatin and Township of Jaffray & Melick.

MR. LASKIN: Now I would like to call the first scheduled presentation on this evening's program or on the printed schedule by the Ontario Federation of Labour, which I believe will be made by Miss Shelly Acheson.



MR. CLIFF PILKEY: Mr. Commissioner, I wonder if I could just make a few comments prior to Miss Shelly Acheson presenting the Ontario Federation of Labour brief.

My name is Cliff Pilkey, I am the President of the Ontario Federation of Labour, and with us this evening in the audience is Mr. Carl Stevens, the President of the Kenora & Keewatin District Labour Council; Jeremy Lavis, vice president of the Council; <sup>Mr.</sup> John Cherry, the national representative for this area, Canadian Union of Public Employees; Mr. Lyle Hudson, I believe it is, President of 1330, United Paper Workers International Union and Nick Speek, the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

I wanted to just make a couple of comments of my own to say to you, sir, that certainly the problems of the north are of necessity the problems of the south. Not only does the north have specific grievances as they have in our view an undeniable right to determine their own destiny. The environment and native rights and development of the north have always been a concern of the labour movement. Government in our view should present to the people of the north for their approval any comprehensive northern development strategy. And I also want to say as I said just the other day in southern Ontario that we do have a very critical economic concern, not only in the north, but the whole of the Province of Ontario as it relates to unemployment and jobs. But the labour movement will not be blackmailed into jobs at the expense of the environment; we've said that on more than one occasion and I want to repeat that again here tonight, and I just don't believe that we ought to adopt the sort of philosophy that somehow we've got to strike a balance between jobs and the environment. I happen to believe we can have



10 both. I think we can have conservation, a protected environ-  
ment and we can have jobs at the same time. And I don't  
believe it's enough for us to say that the elected represen-  
tatives while they have the support of the general populace  
ought to be able to go scot-free in terms of getting on  
with the job of building this province and more particularly  
northern Ontario. It's our view that government has allowed  
the exploitation of the north and that has been demonstrated  
on more than one occasion. Certainly the people of the north  
who have their roots here, they were born here, certainly  
have a contribution to make; should be consulted through your  
Commission and any other vehicle that is necessary to provide  
20 what I believe the right as I said to determine their own  
destiny and certainly the right to determine how they're  
going to live, the kind of environment they're going to live  
in and the kind of jobs that are necessary to provide a  
decent standard of living.

30 So this time I would like to ask Shelly who  
happens to be the Director of the Human Rights Department of  
the Ontario Federation of Labour to present our Brief to  
this Commission. Thank you, sir.

40 SHELLEY ACHESON

"Mr. Commissioner:

"We welcome this opportunity to appear  
before these hearings, and relate to you some  
of our concerns about the northern environment  
and the process of your inquiry.

"The labour movement was extremely



"pleased when we learned of the establishment of your Commission. We consider that such an inquiry is very long overdue.

"The Ontario Federation of Labour represents over 800,000 unionists in this province, who belong to 110 unions. These members, with their families, comprise a sizeable proportion of the population of Ontario, and a considerable percentage of this number reside in the cities and towns just north and south of the 50th parallel. These working people from the North have for years been attending and participating in labour conferences, educational seminars, and annual policy conventions, where they have detailed their concerns to the OFL. We are here today in response to these concerns.

"We regret that it required widespread public reaction to two years of secret negotiations between the government and the Reed Paper Company before this Commission was established. Most recently we in the labour movement have been confronted with the fait accompli of thousands of lost jobs in Sudbury, at Inco and Falconbridge, without prior negotiations, consultation, or proper warning of any kind. We are thus presently more acutely appreciative than ever of the frustration and outrage of northerners, both native and otherwise, who have been systematically excluded from every level of policy formulation and





"economic planning regarding the North in the past.

"In so many ways the evolution of the Reed scheme (whatever its present status) represents the classic example of all that must be avoided in the future: 1) the secretive assembly and sharing by government and industry of information about massive resource development proposals with virtually no information disseminated to the public - to the press, local residents, the labour movement, public interest groups, or the taxpayers of Ontario;

"2) the indifference to and ignorance of the concerns, interests, and rights of the native people, and the arrogant flat refusal to consult in any fashion at any stage with the native people;

"3) the parallel exclusion of the communities to be affected from the decision-making processes;

"4) the patronizing attempt to purchase the support of the communities and labour by the creation of a few jobs of uncertain duration and quality;

"5) the absence of any concern for long-term planning, the examination of alternative proposals, and any attempt to reduce the expected disruption of existing social and community life in the North;

"6) the continued donations by government



"to multinational corporations of tax concessions, grants, and open-ended contracts;

"7) the pitiful lack of any serious prior environmental assessment or concern;

"8) the continued blind assumption that the prime beneficiaries of resource development will and should not be northerners but those in the South.

"It is perhaps somewhat unnecessary to say that employment is a key concern of the labour movement, and that employment is tied to economic expansion and development. However, unionists in the North have learned and are presently being reminded of hard lessons from the boom and bust cycles of the past, the company towns which can die as quickly as they were once set up, the pollution, the waste of raw products, the lack of health, education and transportation facilities, the lack of jobs for women, the relocation and dislocation which occurs when a company is closed. These kinds of effects, Mr. Justice Hartt, are not just economic - they wreak havoc on the personal and family lives of inhabitants of the North. The lack of stability is oppressive.

"Why has this kind of 'development'. which we would prefer to call exploitation, been allowed to continue? We would venture two major reasons: because it is profitable for the industries involved who merely extract



10 "the resources for processing elsewhere, and  
who have needed to show little responsibility  
to the well-being of the people employed in  
the process, the municipality, native communi-  
ties, the resources themselves and the environ-  
ment; secondly, because the decisions that have  
been made, were made by governments outside of  
the North, and industries, the majority of  
which are American or foreign-owned, who know  
little and care less about the North. Surely  
the disaster of the lay-offs at Inco and  
Falconbridge in Sudbury clearly demonstrates  
20 this syndrome.

"For these reasons we feel it is of  
critical importance to recognize the need for  
a solid base of secondary industry in the  
North. The profits and products of primary  
industry should be reinvested in secondary  
0 industry, generating new jobs. In this way  
the natural riches of the North would become  
a lever for economic progress and growth in  
the North.

"We urge your Commission to investi-  
gate in depth what resources are extracted in  
the North, who extracts them, for whom, and  
why? Who is involved in the decision-making  
processes? What is the relationship between  
the industries and government? Where are the  
statistics coming from? What kind of develop-  
ment policies will bring stability to the  
North?





"We noted previously the hardships of northern existence, the relocation and disruption resulting from boom and bust cycles, the marital and social problems resulting from isolation and lack of basic facilities. Such is the lot of the non-native northerner.

"In similar fashion, the lives of native people have been treated disdainfully - they have been uprooted from their traditional nomadic life in keeping with their hunting, fishing and trapping existence and have been placed on reserves. Their belief in custodianship of the land has been sorely abused, and their land has been flooded, forested and mined without any consultation. They do not have the right to elect a local and regional government to respond to their needs, which is supposedly the basic right of all citizens. This lack of local control, and control over their own lives binds together the native and non-native, particularly in the North, but also in the South. It becomes increasingly clear to us that working people and native people have common grievances.

"The labour movement supports the right of native people to self-determination, self-sufficiency. We admire their spirit, their love for their land, and their respect for the environment. We feel we have much to learn from them, if it is not already too late.

"We wish finally to emphasize that the



10 "labour movement adamantly refuses to be conned  
by the industry argument of the need for trade-  
offs between environmental control and jobs.  
We have learned to our detriment, that the usual  
outcome of such argument is both pollution and  
unemployment. We no longer intend to be so naive,  
and are becoming increasingly convinced that  
pollution control methods in themselves can  
generate employment and that alternative methods  
of resource and energy development must be  
intensively researched and examined. We believe  
20 that there are energy systems and technologies  
which respect the environment and are in keeping  
with the maintenance and development of the live-  
lihood and life-style of native people. We par-  
ticularly recommend that wind and solar power  
systems for the North be extensively studied by  
your Commission.

30 "With respect to how your inquiry might  
be conducted, we have the following suggestions:

1. In order for your Commission to make a  
complete and thorough analysis of northern  
development and the environment it is important  
that you investigate the many development schemes  
presently being planned, such as the Polar Gas  
pipeline, the Reed Paper project, Onakawana  
Lignite Mine, water diversion schemes, and  
mineral exploration projects. It is also  
critical that resource development which has  
occurred in the past both north and south of 50  
be investigated to learn from the results of  
these ventures.



10 "2. We urge you to give full consideration to the demands of the native people throughout your inquiry, and strongly recommend that you travel to each native community to see how they live and work, and to enable them to speak openly to you in their own environment, through their own languages. Only in this way will we finally be communicating with the native people on an equal basis. It is of similar importance that the native groups appearing at the formal hearings be accorded the time, funding and research documentation needed to ensure their full and equal participation. Such presentations will be a massive task for organizations only beginning to cope with a complex legal and technical bureaucracy, which to those of us bred in the system is still frightening, if not often incomprehensible.

20 "3. We wish to commend you for announcing the fact of preliminary hearings in the South, although the time limitations were somewhat stringent. We would strongly recommend community hearings as well in the South, as has also been recommended by native groups. Certainly the mistake of having decisions made in the South which affect the North, should not simply be reversed. And the economic and environmental concerns are of province-wide scope. The taxpayers of both North and South have had their tax dollars already invested in the preliminary phases of the development schemes mentioned earlier, and they have a right to a say on the impact of these



"schemes.

10 "4. We urge you to encourage and promote the active participation of the public - not merely 'interested parties'. A party, already interested, needs little encouragement, but there are many groups, organizations and individuals, particularly in the South who still know little if anything about your Commission. Information on the inquiry, the issues, funding criteria, and summaries of the hearings and evidence obtained, should be widely available across the province. We suggest that all forms of the media be used for this purpose. It is our contention that this Commission can serve as an invaluable educational tool for the public of Ontario on aspects of the North never before discussed, presented, or analyzed in open debate.

20 "Mr. Justice Hartt, you have been presented with a formidable task, which we urge <sup>you</sup> to pursue fairly, openly, and thoroughly. We expect that our hopes for a planned development policy, so long awaited, will be one fruitful result of this unique opportunity to break with the past system of private planning for private interests and move into an era of public planning in the public interest."

30 Thank you very much.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much for coming, Clifford.

MR. LASKIN: I would like to file a copy of





that last brief as Exhibit No.258. Thank you very much.

---EXHIBIT NO.258:

Submission of the Ontario  
Federation of Labour.

10 MR. LASKIN: Ladies and gentlemen, our next  
presentation is from the Ministry of Natural Sources who made  
the major part of their presentation earlier on in our pre-  
liminary hearings but there was one issue which we requested  
them address here and that is the issue of wild rice and  
wild rice harvesting, and I believe Mr. Ray Riley is going  
to speak on behalf of the Ministry in respect of that matter.  
20 Mr. Riley.

RAY RILEY

Thank you.

Mr. Commissioner, welcome back to Kenora.

30 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

MR. RILEY: It's good to see you again.

40 Wild rice as you are well aware has been sort  
of a nemesis through these discussions over the last two  
months and my object here tonight is essentially to try to  
shed some light on what wild rice is, what it does, where  
it grows, what we do with it and possibly give some inkling  
as to how the government is managing wild rice at the  
present time.

As you are probably aware we are presently  
looking at changing our approach to wild rice management in  
Ontario. We aren't far enough down the line to give any  
secrets away tonight so consequently I'll just confine my



remarks to where we stand and have been coming from for the last twenty-five years.

Well, what is wild rice? It is the only indigenous cereal in Canada; it grows naturally - shallow waters across most of northern Ontario and in fact throughout North America. Actually the largest natural stands of wild rice found in the world occur locally in the Lake of the Woods area.

It's probably around in northwestern Ontario about 2500 years. First consumed by the people of lower culture at least a thousand years ago. French missionaries noted it being harvested in the 1660's. In fact, Alexander Hendry traded for rice in the Lake of the Woods in 1774, and it proved to be one of the staple foods he used to ferry himself across the prairies.

There are records of the North West Company purchasing rice in Minnesota in 1804 and the Hudson Bay Company in 1815 in northwestern Ontario.

The plant germinates late in April, maybe early May; it goes through a floating leaf stage and by mid-June the stem rises above the water and the emergent leaf stage is formed. At this time it starts to tiller if conditions are proper and we may get two to twenty-five flowering heads on the plant. It flowers somewhere around the first or second week in July; by mid-August the seeds are in the milk stage and this milk stage essentially congeals, it goes chalky and by late August, early September the grain is ripe and ready for picking.

There are two varieties in northern Ontario. Its latin name is Zizania aquatica and one variety is called interior and the other is agustipholia. Now they're very



difficult to tell apart. Essentially the agustipholia is a more northern plant, it grows in deeper water and tends to be a little more sparce in its natural habitat.

Wild rice in Ontario is distributed from Lake Erie all the way north to North Spirit Lake, that's about 10° of latitude. It's found in many places in southern Ontario, eastern Ontario, across the shield up into the Lake Nipigon area, Geraldton, Thunder Bay, the major areas immediate to Lake of the Woods. Its habitat is shallow, clear water; bottoms ranging from sand down to organic muck. It appears to be very light dependent and it cannot tolerate deep water: six feet generally is a maximum. The nutrient content of the water apparently has very little to do with the success of the plant. It is very sensitive to competition from other acquatics, particularly those broad-leaved plants such as water lilies and in marginal areas other emergent species can kill it off and completely eliminate it. Enemies: there are many and varied. Weather is a particularly bad one. Water levels. Several types of insects, cutworms, moth larvas, aphids, rice stem borers, wild rice worms, fungus, blackbirds, In fact in some areas in Minnesota blackbirds reduce the crop by 80%. Muskrat and moose graze on tender tips. Even fish - carp in southern Ontario, have a tendency to uproot the plants while they wander around in shallow water and they also cloud the water and inhibit growth during the early part of the Spring. It's a very nutrient plant, it's easy to digest, low fat content, high protein; it has a thiamine content equal of wheat and a riboflavin content better than wheat.

You might be interested in knowing that tests we've run on rice in the English River system suggests that the kernels themselves tend to be - carry very negligible





values of mercury.

It's cultivated quite commonly in the U.S., not so much so in Canada to date. It can be cultivated in natural lakes or in man-made paddies.

Experiments to date in northwestern Ontario suggests that rice success depends on soil suitability, light extinction, in other words depth, and for some funny reason which we haven't been able to determine there seems to be some reason to think that the success of rice also depends on the amount of calcium in the soil.

To date all successful cultivation in Ontario has been in natural water bodies. In 1974 the Ministry planted 49 lakes, stretching from Quetico to North Cariboo and from the Manitoba border east to Lake Nipigon. Of these - these were sort of shots in the dark: we took a look and said, Mm that looks rather great, we'll give this one a try, so we dump a bag or two of rice in and of these five lakes showed evidence that they could be successfully cultured into an economically viable harvest. Twelve of them turned out to be marginal producers and the other ones were failures or almost such.

Generally in the U.S., particularly in Minnesota, rice is cultivated in paddies. Generally seeded in the Fall by broadcasting, machinery or, if the areas are large enough, by air. Twenty to thirty pounds of rice seed will cover off an acre; seeds generally have to be kept damp and then in the Spring just after, or maybe even before the frost is out of the ground the areas are flooded. The paddies are drained during the emergent leaf stage, harvesting begins in late August, early September. Three varieties are grown in Minnesota. One strain called the Canadian strain



10 which was adapted from the Province of Manitoba appears to be their deluxe brand, long grained, very common in delicatessens and airports, etc. A Minnesota lake variety which is a natural occurring strain in Minnesota and a non-shattering variety that was developed in Minnesota that for some reason or other has selectively bred itself to be able to maintain all the grains on the top of the rice stem such as they fall off at one time. Generally rice will ripen from the top to the bottom of the head with the upper grains falling off prior to the bottom ones falling off but this non-shattering variety has a tendency to ripen all at one time.

20 Harvesting methods vary from traditional harvesting methods to mechanical. Traditional methods are primarily used in natural occurring stands, generally consists of a canoe propelled by a pole or maybe a paddle and another individual sitting in the canoe with two sticks, 2½ to 3 feet long, bending the rice over the gunnels of the canoe and flailing away and knocking the ripe grains into the bottom. Mechanical harvesters vary from the type developed up in 30 Osnaburgh which consists of a small speed head or small tray mounted on the bow of a canoe propelled with a 5 to 10 HP motor which is propelled back and forth through the rice paddies and which by the way works very successfully up there. Mechanical varieties vary from that to the typical mechanical harvesters that are used in Ontario which consists of either pontoons or flat bottomed boat with an aeroplane 40 engine for a propellant to combines on rice patties in the States.

It's interesting to note that rice inspite of a lot of things that we see in the press and quite frequently here, rice in paddies in the U.S. does not have to be planted, even though it's combined, there is enough fall from the



10 combined rice at the time of combining to provide more than enough seed to germinate another crop. In fact, most paddies have to be thinned out in the Spring after the stalks have risen above water because of the fact the stalks become too close together and there is a tendency for disease to make its way through the wild rice fields.

Yields on wild rice are generally given to be 1500 to 2200 pounds per acre; that's what is produced. We have heard of one instance under controlled conditions where experimental situation in the States they developed something like 4,000 pounds an acre.

20 Canoe and flail methods generally give somewhere between 50 and 75 pounds per acre as a return. The top that we've come across to date has been 100 pounds per hour for a 2-hour stint in Minnesota. Minnesota have 2-hour seasons per day if you will, and everyone goes out and flails away for two hours between noon and two o'clock or ten o'clock and twelve and come back in and so for that 2-hour period they can go at a pretty good rate, they can't keep that up for a total day.

30 At Osnaburgh we've noted areas where the Osnaburgh mechanical harvester will pick up as much as 104 pounds per acre and the rates up there per man day are up to 250 to 275 pounds; it's quite an efficient little operation they're running.

40 A larger mechanical harvester will produce somewhere between 200 and 500 pounds an acre and the man day production off these machines is quite phenomenal. We know of one instance last year in Fort Frances where two people in one day harvested 2853 pounds of rice at a dollar and roughly fifty cents a pound, that's a pretty good day's wage.





Combines will generally take about a thousand pounds an acre and again this one instance of about 2,000 pounds coming off from an experimental area.

Processing is generally done by parching the rice in gas-fired kilns, separating mechanically by weight and size. There are two processing plants in Ontario: one here in Keewatin and one down in the Lindsay area.

Marketing appears to be one of the major difficulties with the grain. It's presently dealt with as a specialty item, predominantly in delicatessens or health food stores. I was told last Spring that the going price for rice in the Chicago airport was \$8.00+ a pound.

Most U.S. production goes to bulk sales to major food chains such as Uncle Ben's, they mix it with white rice and it tends to go considerably further that way. There's a great difficulty in maintaining markets, both in Canada and the U.S. due to the fluctuating crops. There's some pre-cooked rice on the market, in fact it's marketed by Shoal Lake Wild Rice here in Canada. To date European and Japanese markets haven't been touched. There has been some concern expressed if mass production of rice in Ontario would ruin the market. We doubt that very seriously, we think the best it can do is stabilize the market. Right now it is very very difficult to maintain. Most of the production in Ontario to date goes to either the plant in Keewatin, into Manitoba or most of it south of the border.

Prices this year were apparently driven up in Ontario to, well they reached I think \$1.65 in Kenora which is a record price; they are generally around .90¢ to a buck, but they went up this year due to the fact at least the story has it that organized farmer co-ops in the U.S.





10 were trying to floor the price of paddy-produced rice and we are told that paddy-produced rice in the States has to go for somewhere between \$2.30 and \$2.50 a pound for them to make a profit so by them coming into Ontario and driving the price up here it means that inventories that are picked up have to be sold at a higher price so the individuals who are attempting to undercut the market are going to go under. And they managed to maintain that market until about the second week, I think it was September, when prices suddenly plummeted and it went back down to the dollar range. Shoal Lake Wild Rice at Christmastime was offering the product for \$5.95 a pound in Kenora.

20 It's interesting to note that rice harvested in Prince Edward Island is shipped into Manitoba for processing and that suggests probably there is a lot of opportunity in terms of wild rice marketing in Canada.

30 Production of rice in the northwestern region has varied considerably since 1964 when we started maintaining records until 1977, and it's ranged from somewhere around 27,000 pounds in '74 to 1,318,000 pounds in 1973. That also gives you some idea of the fluctuation between years. The same very violent fluctuation has been noted in Minnesota in areas where they have been keeping records since '62, the years differ but the production goes up and down like a yoyo and it's interesting to note that that particular wild rice harvesting area has water control, and the dam was put in by the Corp of Engineers quite some number of years ago.

40 We started maintaining records in 1976 - I shouldn't say maintain but attempting to garner records in '76 of just how much rice was available in the area. Our 1976 data indicated that we were looking at somewhere in the



vicinity of 21½ to 22,000 acres of rice in the region and those 21,000 acres were providing somewhere around or making available somewhere around 24,000,000 pounds of rice.

10 The harvest that year as garnered from records of wild rice harvesters, buyers, processors looks to be somewhere in the vicinity of 1.1 million pounds and the estimated cash value of that crop to the producers is somewhere in the vicinity of \$800,000.00. We estimate that in the region there was about 4.6% of the available rice harvested in 1976. We've been criticized before for releasing this data and we will probably be criticized again. However, you run into the problem, what do you do, do you release it or sit on it, so  
20 we've decided that rather than sitting on it and get criticized for sitting on it we'll release it.

It's the best data available to date.

THE COMMISSIONER: You might just as well  
release it.

MR. RILEY: Pardon me?

30 THE COMMISSIONER: You might just as well  
release it.

MR. RILEY: We might just as well get criticized for releasing it certainly if I look at what's happened to the Mounties over the last three or four months I think I'll take my lumps this way.

0 Now, the 1977 production - 1977 was a much better year than 1976. We looked at the acreage in north-western Ontario and I'm pulling this out of my head by memory and it may be off but the acreage this year was up about 10,000 acres, it's somewhere in the vicinity of 30,000 acres. We estimated there was something in the vicinity of 54,000,000 pounds of rice growing on those 30,000 acres. The harvest turned out to be 1.3 million pounds or thereabouts: that



again works out to be somewhere in the vicinity of 4., 3 or 4% of the available harvest.

10 We've taken a look at the production over the last, well, since '64, and tried to deduce how much rice might have been available for harvest over those years and we think that the average, and this is speculation or gues-  
20 timation if you will, we guesstimate that probably the average year would give us 10,000,000 pounds of rice growing in the region, and that varied from around 1,000,000 pounds four years to probably 54,000,000 pounds this present year. We estimate the harvest during those years has been somewhere between 3 and 6% of that crop. We suspect that between 40 and 60% of the crop could be harvested but we don't anticipate seeing that harvest being up to that level in the very short future, this has to be a long-term operation.

30 In the northwestern Ontario SLUP exercise with which I am sure, Mr. Commissioner, you are quite familiar, if you aren't now you probably will be in the near future. We have taken 25% of the average annual available rice as a target for which we are shooting. That means that in an average year we would hope to be harvesting somewhere in the vicinity of 2.5 million pounds; this is going to fluctuate given the rice crop itself, some years we might see triple that and some years it might be down to less than a million. And we hope to see that accommodated by more intense harvest-  
40 ing and by the use of mechanical harvesters, the widespread use of mechanical harvesters I should say. Most of that increase in production will have to come out of the Kenora administrative district: in fact 2 million pounds of it. We would also see a considerable increase in Red Lake, we see them right now probably accommodating about 4% of the





total harvest and Sioux Lookout about 3% of the total harvest. I bring those out only because of the fact they are both essentially north of 50.

Now in terms of management, the main management method we've been using since 1959-60 has been licencing. The approach was developed in 1959 and 1960 by the Ministry in cooperation with the pickers and buyers in the Lake of the Woods area. There has been little actual change in our approach to date but in the early 1970's after two bumper crops, one in 1972 and another in 1973, we wondered whether or not we shouldn't be attempting to harvest more of the product that was available. Then the Whitedog and Grassy situation forced us to respond to the predicament up there and one of the questions that kept coming up day after day was, what about wild rice? What can Grassy and Whitedog do in terms of wild rice? And truthfully we really didn't know. So in 1974 we hired some contract staff, personally in the name of Mr. Peter Lee and he stayed with us from '74 to I think mid-76. During that time he pointed out the water level significance on the Lake of the Woods, he became very adamant about the potential of the crop in northwestern Ontario and he also estimated potential crop. In 1976 we noted that we had a bumper year coming on in the latter part of May so we decided we better get moving and at least attempt to accommodate the people who were pounding on our door as to what we could do and where we could be going with wild rice. So we instituted a program to attempt to ascertain information on the location. We didn't know where it was and we find out a lot of other people don't know where it is. Size and the amount of rice available in that year, that program was continued in 1977. We believe the information we have may not be scientifically reproducible but we believe it's at least



ball park and it's certainly the best available in the province today.

The present management thrust of the Ministry at this time at least is to increase the harvest of naturally occurring rice in the province.

10           Back in 1959 the Wild Rice Harvesting Act developed, I believe this came into effect in 1960. It was developed to provide for the orderly harvesting and marketing of wild rice in the province in response to difficulties that had developed, particularly in the Kenora area, between harvesters, between harvesters and buyers and between some  
20 of the various groups who were involved in the rice harvest at the time. The Act is administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources for the province and it's a very short Act. May I can just cover some of the major points.

30           It maintains the necessary, necessity of anyone who harvests wild rice in the province to hold a licence. The person must be a resident, he may be refused a licence and the Deputy may refuse to issue, he may cancel but if he does cancel or refuse to issue a licence to any resident of the province he must hold a hearing and give reasons as to why he has done such. This decision by the Deputy Minister can then be appealed to the Minister. The Minister, himself, controls the issue of licences and he may give direction  
40 relating thereto and cancellation thereof and may prescribe terms and conditions thereon.

The regulations to the Act essentially deal with the issue and renewal and transfer of licences and the prescription of fees, the development of wild rice harvesting areas, payment of royalties. It's noteworthy that the regulations may be general or in particular as its application



territorially or as to time or otherwise. What that suggests is that the Minister has considerable latitude in what may be done by regulation with regard to the Wild Rice Harvesting Act.

10 Offences are covered in the regulations and the contravention of the act or the regulations upon summary of conviction the person who contravenes the act is liable up to a maximum of \$500 fine.

20 The 1959 meeting defined wild rice harvesting areas in the Kenora, in fact ten of them; eight of them are now within the Kenora Administrative District and two in the Dryden District. It also defined one up in what is now the Red Lake district, four in Sioux Lookout and one down in Thunder Bay. These areas at the present time in the Kenora-Dryden Districts are licenced exclusively to the native people; the area in Red Lake has been licenced to both natives and whites; the Sioux Lookout areas have been licenced predominantly to whites, the one in Thunder Bay is licenced I think almost entirely to Indians and has been traditionally.

30 In areas outside the wild rice harvesting areas as defined in the regulations, harvesting licences are available to anyone or any corporation who meets the residency requirements.

40 The Ministry will, upon application, issue a licence if the area so requested is previously unlicensed and there are no other constraining influences on it. It may well be that it's a bay which we consider to be a rather significant spawning ground under those concerns - or under that situation we would probably refrain from issuing a licence on it.





Approvals to seed natural areas are handled in the same way. We generally request from the persons who are seeding that they file with us a plan of their operation.

Water level control on areas are considered on an individual basis. There are two now that are specifically instituted or have been specifically instituted within the region for control for rice: One is at the Whitedog dam which Mr. Troyer referred to earlier tonight, and the second is going into place or is into place up on Kennedy Lake and it's near Grassy Narrows.

Before approval is given to dam individual water courses permission must first be obtained under The Navigable Waters Act, it's a federal statute and under the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act which is a provincial statute.

That essentially covers wild rice, where we are today. Maybe I could just summarize in terms of policy. The Minister has been given the mandate by the legislature to manage wild rice. We view rice very much in the context of the resources as outlined to you by Mr. Brunelle in Timmins that it's a Crown resource, it belongs to all the citizens of Ontario and will be managed as such.

Further guidance has been given to us recently in a statement by our Minister on December 8th in the House whereby he indicated that the government doesn't view the resource as reserved for any single group but available again for all people in Ontario. Now Mr. Miller did make mention of the fact that we would look favourably upon giving Indians early entry possibly into wild rice and wild rice harvest and certainly that's one of the points that will follow through in any revision of policy in the province.





10 We hope to increase the value of wild rice to  
the economy of northwestern Ontario and we hope that we can  
get a positive response to this new initiative or the new  
approach from all groups that are involved in wild rice  
harvest. We know it's a touchy subject, we've had some  
response, I won't say response has been all that great but  
some response to date in terms of the policy proposals that  
are now circulating to interested people and we would hope  
that those who haven't responded to date will in the very  
near future because if you don't respond it's quite possible  
that we will have to carry on without your input, so we  
would suggest that everybody that is interested can provide  
20 us with information, either verbally if you will or on paper  
and which will certainly be considered.

With that, Mr. Commissioner, I thank you.

MR. LASKIN: Mr. Riley, you did indicate that  
there were as I understood it some areas such as this Kenora  
area which were licenced exclusively to Native peoples. Is  
30 that a matter of policy within the Ministry?

MR. RILEY: It's a matter of policy.

MR. LASKIN: And is that policy under con-  
sideration for a change?

MR. RILEY: That policy would be under con-  
sideration as well, all policy at the present point in time  
40 is up for grabs.

MR. LASKIN: I see, and is there any considera-  
tion being given to putting quotas on licences as well, that  
is you can't hold the licence unless you harvest a minimum  
amount, because that also is an issue which has been raised  
before us.



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MR. RILEY: That one gets rather tricky because you're going to have to define minimum amount and you're going to have to define it for a good year and a poor year. And we see some real administrative hassles with something like that. I guess I'm being the typical bureaucrat to which Mr. Troyer was referring to earlier, but there are a lot of problems looking at things in that light. We are certainly considering at this particular point in time and it was pointed out in the policy paper that has been circulated of a means of controlling possibly the number of licences issued. I don't think that we have given all that much consideration to the amount of rice harvested because at this particular point in time I'm certainly thinking out loud, I don't know how we would be able to accommodate that particular problem.

THE COMMISSIONER: The whole policy is up for review at the present time, is that right, so it's completely open because I'm sure I'll have something to say about that in an interim report.

MR. RILEY: Well, we would be very very much interested in anything you would have to say because we know that you have heard a good deal from wild rice over the last while and we certainly would like the views of someone who maybe can sit back and adjudicate the situation a little more freely than some of us who are very much involved in it.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thanks very much, Mr. Riley.

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Mr. Riley.

I believe we've had some hot coffee up there for quite awhile and perhaps we ought to take a very short coffee break now. I know there's still a large number of people who wish to speak this evening but if there's anyone



else whose name I don't have please come up and let me know.

---Brief Recess.

---On resuming:

10 MR. LASKIN: Ladies and gentlemen I wonder if we might resume our meeting since we have a number of speakers yet to go.

20 Ladies and gentlemen could you please be seated again. I'd like to call upon Roberta Keesick to speak to the Commission. I'm sorry we've kept you so late Roberta. I gather we've kept you from your examination studying.

ROBERTA KEESICK

30 Good evening, I've come here with a short brief to present to you, Mr. Hartt, Commissioner.

0 "My name is Roberta Keesick, and I have come from Grassy Narrows Reserve. I am a senior in a local high school here in Kenora. I am an Indian, and I am young, and I said I am good. When I say I am good, I don't mean a person on top of everyone, or a person too good for anyone, but a person who feels confident she's done well and deserves that classification.

But I am tired. I am tired of being put down. I am tired for not being recognized as a good person. I am tired of asking and being refused. I am tired of being





10 "misused. I am tired of being treated like  
I'm dumb. I am so tired that I can longer  
withhold my voice and allow the world to  
tire me into losing my self-respect, because  
I am proud to be an Indian. I can think,  
but I do it in silence. I can speak, but  
only when it is necessary, as now. And I  
can feel. That's why I have come with hope,  
that what I am about to read will serve well  
in explaining how the Indian is made to feel.  
Especially those that are being victimized  
20 in the destruction of the only way of life  
they have known.

In this poem I attempt this task of revealing  
the cold reality of what is felt by my people.  
I hope as I read this poem, you won't just  
hear the words, but feel them. It is entitled  
'Snowflakes'.

30 "SNOWFLAKES

"I looked into the distance through the snowflakes  
And I asked God of all it takes  
About his thing about giving  
Of making my people feel worthwhile living  
And about granting me a standing  
40 To be able to give my people my understanding  
And about giving them purpose  
And a solid surface  
To give them support  
In which to do their export  
Of the countless troubles and problems  
Which have served as emblems



10 "And shameful symbols  
Of my people and their peoples.  
I looked into the distance through the snowflakes  
And searched hard amidst the deceiving flakes  
For the sight of God's light  
Of which would enlighten  
My people's flooded eyes  
Which lies  
Marked by moans exhaled from their painful moods  
Of the numerous loads  
Of troubles and problems  
Which need not serve as emblems  
20 Of my worthy people  
Who only mean to live life simple.  
Again I looked into the distance through the snowflakes  
And asked God of all it takes  
About his thing about giving  
Of making my people feel worthwhile living  
I offered to go  
30 Before my tired people  
And deliver his most wanted consent  
Of which he has not sent.  
Still I look on into the distance through the snowflakes  
And ask God of all it takes  
About his thing about giving  
Of making my people feel worthwhile living  
40 My people have offered to wait  
For they know some day he will send his word  
To make my people feel worthwhile living  
And to show his thing about giving.  
Our trees have been taken  
Our waters have been made into poison



10 "Our animals have been made to turn their back on us  
We have been left with nothing  
The whiteman is tired of us  
They hurt and they abuse us  
They criticize our failures to succeed in their kinds  
of professions.  
All this has left us to feel unworthy.

I am sure there are those who do not realize that  
there are still Indians who lack skill and educa-  
tion to compete in the whiteman's kinds of pro-  
fessions.

20 You see Indians feel too. We care about what  
happens to our friend, the whiteman.

We do not ask for special treatment.

We only ask that our feelings be considered before  
determining the development or the fate of our  
home, the north."

30 Thank you for listening.

MR. LASKIN: Thanks, Roberta. A copy of your  
brief will be filed as Exhibit 259.

---EXHIBIT NO.259:

Submission of Roberta Keesick.

40 MR. LASKIN: Our next presentation is from  
the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Ontario Division,  
and it will be made by the Kenora representative, Wendy Lill.  
It's L-I-L-L.



WENDY LILL

Good evening. I wish I could say something as completely and wonderfully about mental health as the fellow before me said about rice but I'm afraid that's not possible.

I am representing the Ontario Division of the Mental Health Association which is a voluntary, non-profit organization, which works to promote mental health in individuals and communities by means of advocacies, community development, education and innovative programs. I present the following paper to you as a preliminary statement of our interest and concern for the health needs of the people in northwestern Ontario.

It is our view that the positive and negative outcomes of previous northern development have already been recorded extensively. There already exists good predictors of what result from uncontrolled accelerated growth. If in some instances the predictions of social problems cannot be exactly quantified there still remains no doubt that the social costs will be the burden of the local communities and their individuals inhabitants.

The following paper is not a comprehensive research paper into these social costs but rather only the first impressions of an association slowly gaining familiarity with the area. It is our hope, however, that the general principles we have adopted and the recommendations arising from them will provide you with a valuable way of seeing and hearing the people who speak to you at these hearings and in the communities you visit.

Further to this we would like to express our





own commitment as an association to assist northern people and groups in the coming years in articulating and resolving their health concerns and in advocating for the changes necessary to improve the quality of their lives and the health of their community.

1. We believe that "any investigation into the environmental impact of northern development must fully consider the psychosocial implications of that development. The bio-ecology is of equal importance to the psycho-ecology.

"2. Externally-controlled, rapid, exploitive development imposed on existing communities and cultures, leads to the destruction of the social fabric of the culture and severe psychological distress. These conditions are greatly aggravated in northern communities where white, technological culture clashes with native traditional culture, and the existing support systems are inadequate to cope with the resulting emotional distress.

Economic development, if it is to avoid these destructive results, must:

- (a) safeguard the integrity of traditional cultures and value systems;
- (b) proceed on such a scale and at such a pace that it can be absorbed without traumatic effect by existing populations;
- (c) allow room for local initiatives and participation; and
- (d) leave local people free to control their own environment and determine their own life-styles.



10 "3. Meaningful involvement of native people in the social, economic and cultural development of Northern Ontario will depend on the extent to which they are supported in their demands for appropriate educational, economic development programs and for re-orientation of economic planning priorities to allow for small-scale, locally planned and controlled enterprises.

20 "4. In northwestern Ontario rapid industrial expansion has often brought about unnatural, incomplete 'communities' without adequate social and support systems for its individual members. In the future with regard to town planning, emphasis must be placed on building 'health' into new northern communities. Further to this, the goals of northern health-care delivery systems should be community-based operation and control and should promote mental health on both the community and individual level.

30 "5. The North is an integral part of Canadian society. Solutions to northern problems are inextricably tied to southern policies. In the interplay of economic forces between the two regions, the rights of northern residents to determine their own development must be respected.

40 "6. Finally, genuine solutions of the problems of the North may well have to reside in a complete rethinking of our concepts of



"growth, progress, culture and economics.

"Recommendations

"1. In light of the above principles, we believe that the Commission must seek answers to the following fundamental questions:

(a) should there, in fact, be any further expansion of southern-controlled industrial development in the area under study?

(b) if so, on what scale and at what pace and under what conditions should it proceed in order to avoid destructive psycho-social impact on local populations?

(c) what should be done to ameliorate the adverse psycho-social effects of existing major enterprises in the area? What should be the nature of the compensation to populations already bearing the brunt of negative aspects of development? Who should bear the responsibility for this compensation?

(d) what steps should be taken to encourage indigenous forms of economic development reflective of local initiative under local control, and in harmony with the local socio-cultural environment?

"2. We also recommend that the Commission <sup>informally</sup> visit/as many northern communities as possible to discuss with individuals in their own milieu





10 "and at their convenience, the issues as they see them. Formal hearings should only represent one aspect of the inquiry and such hearings are inadequate for the emergence and comprehension of the human factor in this investigation. Care must be taken in many cases to limit the size and composition of the hearings to allow for free access to people's thoughts and concerns and feelings."

20 In closing I would like to say that we share in the hope that the Royal Commission into the Northern Environment will provide some new guidelines for human and scale development for our future.

10 In order to safeguard the effectiveness of your inquiry and the validity of your findings we finally recommend a halt to any new major industrial developments presently being pursued or otherwise reviewed in this area until the conclusion of your investigations.

10 Thank you, and good luck.

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Wendy. A copy of your brief will be filed as Exhibit 260.

0 ---EXHIBIT NO.260:

Submission of Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario Division.

MR. LASKIN: I would now like to call on the presentation of the Kenora Ministerial Association. Reverend Fulmer, who has been waiting patiently --



REV. JOHN FULMER

Thank you very much.

"I read from the Book of the Prophet  
Isaiah:

For this is what the Lord has said:  
The earth droops and withers,  
The world wilts and withers,  
The high heavens wilt with the earth  
The earth is polluted through the touch  
of its inhabitants:  
Because they have flouted laws, violated  
statutes  
And broken the eternal covenant.  
Therefore the earth is under a curse,  
And its people are paying the price.

(Isaiah 24: 2b-6a)

"Mr. Justice Hartt, members of the  
inquiry and friends. Thank you for taking the  
time to listen and consider our brief. It is  
our hope that it will be of some value in giving  
guidance for the future hearings and for your  
recommendations at its conclusion.

"We understand that your inquiry opened,  
Mr. Justice Hartt, in Sioux Lookout, November 7th,  
as it did here this morning with prayers and the  
religious peace pipe ceremony. We, members of the  
Kenora-Keewatin Ministerial Association would like  
to echo these same sentiments, the same spiritual  
call with which it opened.

We of the Ministerial Association are the



10 "pastors and priests who are serving the  
Protestant and Catholic churches and  
parishes of this community. We live and  
serve an area that is known across Canada,  
and even across our borders because of some  
of the problems that have surfaced here. To  
say that this situation has been exaggerated  
or distorted by the media would probably be  
true. To say that some very serious diffi-  
culties are happening here, and on a scale  
which is out of proportion compared to other  
communities of similar size in Ontario would  
20 also be true. We would speak of some of  
these as they affect us and the people we are  
called to serve. For we do believe that the  
past and present modes of 'development' must  
be permitted to speak and be heard as we look  
to the future.

30 "It is then of concern to us that the  
pattern of development, the method of develop-  
ment, or the way that so-called development  
has taken place up to now throughout Ontario,  
and indeed, throughout the world has produced  
such side effects as:

40 - and here the headlines are on this makeshift  
cardboard in front of us -

- "1. That none of us, regardless of where we  
live, can be sure that the water we drink  
is not contaminated with radioactive  
materials, or PCB's, or DDT, or mercury,  
or asbestos fibres, or arsenic, or a com-  
bination of these and other poisons not



"mentioned. In fact, it is 'assumed' and 'accepted' by all but the most naive that all of our waters are so polluted. Our waters have become the cesspool of our sin against our Creator, his world, our neighbour and ourself.

"2. We cannot be sure that the fish and other food that is gathered from the waters is not poisoned and unfit to eat. In fact the only question seems to be of the degree that it is poisoned, and, is the poison within the 'safe' limits of human consumption? And, if not safe for us according to the laws of Ontario, is it safe enough to send elsewhere where their standards are not as high as ours? So we can still make our profit. We, Clergy, find this morally culpable.

"3. What we have said about the water is equally true of the air we breathe. Poisoned. And increasingly so.

"4. And the results of this pollution-poisoning are revealed in many ways. We choose to mention only one: We are now warned that the breast milk of the mother may be unfit for the baby - that which is born of the womb is unable to drink from the breast in complete trust. And having become a grandfather as of just Tuesday you can understand how this might affect me at the moment very personally. To our mind, this is the ulti-





"mate expression of our sin-sickness. We could go on and on.

"It is as if the ancient prophesy of Isaiah were coming true today. 'The earth is polluted through the touch of its inhabitants, and its people are paying the price - because we have flouted laws, violated statutes, and broken the eternal covenant.'

"And what is alarming to our mind is that those who pollute, and those in our government whose job it is to monitor and police the corporations, both seem intent on trying to cover up and ward off lawsuits rather than openly admitting the extent of the problem and cleaning up the damage. This, we believe, is inexcusable - especially on the part of our government. And, even when, on that rare occasion, the polluter is taken to court and guilty on several counts, and fined, the fine seems to us to be so ridiculously low, often lower in fact than that fine usually charged to someone who has taken too many fish while angling.

"To our mind, Mr. Justice Hartt, there is no comparison to the crime of polluting our air and waters and all the life contained therein, and that of robbing of a few fish from the lake or stream.

"But although it may seem to some of us that Isaiah is speaking of our time, we recognize that this is neither the place nor



"the time to engage in any theological speculation, however important that might seem to us as Clergy. That does have its time, and its place, and its importance.

10 "But at this time we feel that there are situations that arise in life that permit no delay for reflection, but rather cry out for action. This is the case, we believe, when there is a direct menace to persons, to their life and dignity. When we can be of help to our brothers and sisters we must act, and act boldly. Now is that hour and this is the place.

20 "And it is well for us to begin by saying that we of the church fully recognize that we are not without guilt. Indeed we have been and are part of our society and part of the problem or problems here. We are, therefore, also speaking to 'us' here at this time.

30 "And also to believe that we of the church have 'the answer' from on high which we will deliver now in the next five minutes, and then all we have to do is follow where we have, you know, pointed the way - that is simply not true. We rather feel that we have some insight, and some truth that would be added to the truths presented by others so that the outcome for all of us would be enhanced.

40 "Mr. Justice Hartt. In addition to the almost daily mounting of the pollution



10 "mentioned above, we are also concerned that, in our community here, as we have heard, there is a large segment that is not enjoying many of the comforts of life that most of us take for granted. A job, self-esteem, a home, acceptance of self and by the larger community. Resulting in a lost meaning and purpose of life and an almost total breakdown of a once proud nation.

20 "The evidence for this, and the results of the lack of such basic human needs is shown repeatedly in statistical reports and newscasts that come from our community. The recent report of the Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario in 1977 summarized this as well as any. 'The Kenora District was found to have the highest per capita alcohol consumption, the highest rate of arrests and violations for liquor offences, the highest rate of alcohol diagnosed hospital discharges, and the highest rate of deaths due to accidents, poisoning and violence. Between 1971 and '74, 24% of the deaths in the District were due to accidental or violent causes, compared to 9% for the rest of the province'. And the trend is worsening drastically. In 1969, the alcohol consumption of the Kenora District was 16% above the provincial average. Five years later, '74, it was found to be 34% above the provincial average!

30

40

"And it was in that year, Mr. Justice Hartt, on June 1st, 1974, that our then Mayor,





"Mr. Jim Davidson, presented a brief to the Ontario Cabinet Committee on Social Development. That Committee was composed of such members as the Honourable Margaret Birch, the Honourable Rene Brunelle, the Honourable James Auld, the Honourable Thomas Wells, and the Honourable Dennis Timbrell. Our Mayor asked some questions of that honourable group, three and one half years ago - questions to which we are still awaiting a reply. Let us refresh our memories a little bit as to what he said: 'Why he asks, 'Why do humans of any race or condition in life in this wealthy Province of Ontario eat from garbage cans? What conditions of life reduce individuals to seek oblivion in the cheap fortified wines that are sold by the Ontario Liquor Control Board in great quantities from the main street outlet in Kenora? 7,000 pickups for drunkenness - remember the population of the Town of Kenora is now 10,000 - 7,000 pickups for drunkenness by the local police force in one year. Assorted acts of violence to themselves and to others: Fires of unknown origin in deserted buildings: Unnatural deaths from exposure, fire, rail and car accidents, drownings, suicides and murder.'

"And he went on. 'The Municipality of the Town of Kenora is unable, alone, to change the social conditions that cause this tragic human condition. Stop-gap treatment of symptoms, removal of the



10       "evidence of depravity, band-aid applica-  
          tions of money to one social agency or  
          another, multiplication of agencies, these  
          are not what we are seeking. Work, not  
          welfare, an opportunity for all citizens  
          of Ontario, of whatever race, to live in  
          peace and dignity. An overall attack on  
          the total problem, to seek the real cause,  
          coordination of the efforts of all social  
          agencies, employment of the best brains of  
20       the Province to diagnose and prescribe for  
          this growing disease of our society whose  
          symptoms I have already mentioned, all  
          these are needed. The developing world is  
          not in Africa, or South America, or Eurasia,  
          but in Ontario, on our own doorstep.'

30       "Mr. Justice Hartt. We can only echo  
          the words of our former Mayor when we stand by  
          them. We understand that the honourable group  
          that heard our Mayor were 'shocked' and 'sat in  
          stunned silence' as this evidence was brought  
          home to them.

40       "But as I said these questions were  
          put to that audience three and one half years  
          ago, Mr. Justice Hartt. And, we are sure, not  
          only then, but hundreds of times in various  
          briefs and submissions before that time and  
          after - by this community. And we still see  
          no evidence that his message is being given the  
          serious consideration that is deserved. Even  
          though within two months of his presentation  
          the events of Anishinabe Park punctuated the



"remarks of our Mayor.

"It is evident to us that the pattern of development that has taken place up to now is - has not been good enough. It is destroying God's creation, all of it, including people.

"As leaders of the spiritual community here, we believe that we can no longer remain silent, but must raise our voice of alarm. We simply cannot continue to break laws of God which have existed from the foundation of the world without paying the full price of doing so.

"We fully recognize the wisdom and the necessity of corporations to lay plans which they feel will meet their needs 10, 20, 30 years in the future. We ask for a similar 10-year plan which will meet the human and social stress which is tearing at the very foundation of our community, in part because of the meeting of the corporation's needs without due regard and respect for the wider social responsibility.

"Specifically we re-affirm what Mr. Davidson spelled out so vividly - that there are no short-cuts that we can take out of the present situation. A doctor who would prescribe a band-aid when the patient is suffering from cancer would be sued for malpractice. To seek the real cause goes even deeper than surgery, for our cancer has its cause which must be unmasked, and rooted out and dealt with.

"We believe that every segment of this



10 "wider community (by this we mean the govern-  
ment agencies, all of them, getting together  
and working together: Civic and labour groups:  
business and industry: the church: service  
clubs: the police: all people, the Indian and  
white - ordinary citizens) everyone of us must  
assume our full responsibility for the condi-  
tion we find ourselves in and pledge ourselves  
and commit ourselves to work toward goals which  
we will set and meet to bring a more promising  
future for ourselves and our children. And we  
of the Kenora-Keewatin Ministerial Association  
20 are ready to assume our share of responsibility  
and leadership in this regard.

30 "Clearly this poisoning of air and  
water cannot continue. Our governments must  
enforce more stringent measures to clean up  
existing polluters and pollution and have laws  
with teeth enough to see that it does not  
happen over and over again in the future. If  
this requires that corporation heads be taken  
to court and charged with manslaughter, as is  
presently the case in Japan, if this means that  
all of us have a less affluent life-style, so  
be it. It is the price we must pay, perhaps,  
40 to live within God's economy. Certainly this  
would be preferable to the present course we  
are taking which is leading us all to sickness  
and death by these same effluent poisonings."

Thank you very much.

MR. LASKIN: Thank you very much, Rev. Fulmer.





A copy of your brief will be filed as Exhibit 261 in our records.

---EXHIBIT NO.261:

Submission of the Kenora-  
Keewatin Ministerial Association.

10 MR. LASKIN: I would now like to call upon Dr. Brian Russell, who practices here in Kenora, to address the Commission. Dr. Russell.

DR. BRIAN RUSSELL

20 Thank you, Your Honour, for the opportunity. I have no typed, prepared text for distribution and my purpose is perhaps to shed some light on the medical community's involvement with the "methyl mercury poisoning" in this area. I realize and we all realize that there is a tremendous potential threat in our environment with the methyl mercury.

30 I had the opportunity at the courtesy of the government to go to Tokyo and to the Environmental Protection Agency in Tokyo to Scuba University, to Kimimoto University, to the Minamata Disease Centre and speak with clinical researchers involved with the Minamata Disease in Japan and I had actually hoped that perhaps my comments would be following Mr. Troyer because I feel that what I have to say is in disagreement with some of his statements and perhaps  
40 the points are made late but I'll make them anyway.

The medical staff here were made aware of the threat of methyl mercury as early as 1972. We have been involved with both the two levels of government, the Provincial Government and the Federal Government in assessing this problem and my interest in it is as I am responsible for



10 newborn service at the Lake of the Woods District Hospital, and we are attempting to get a universal population survey of every mother confined to the Lake of the Woods District Hospital. We do a hair level for mercury, we do a blood level for mercury as well as a chord blood level on the infant for methyl mercury, and it's my involvement with this in the last three years that I seek to present some facts that have occurred.

20 The first historical case of methyl mercury poisoning occurred in Sweden in 1952. In 1953 to 1955 a congenital minamata disease was detected in Minamata, Japan, and the label put to it of congenital minamata disease. This is all due to methyl mercury poisoning.

30 Now there are certain distinct problems that Japan has that we don't face here and it's my impression because of these differences that we do not see the congenital minamata disease in Canada as the Japanese have seen it. One of the factors was that the assay for methyl mercury was not developed until 1960 before blood levels of methyl mercury were able to be detected whereas the poisoning in Japan occurred much before then so they did not really have blood hair levels of mercury to back up their clinical assessment; it was mainly an epidemiological assessment of poisoning only.

40 In Kenora here we have been fortunate to have a laboratory at Whitedog which will give us results of methyl mercury and hence are able to study it with a good biochemical background.

In the three years that I have been involved with the study at the Lake of the Woods District Hospital I can safely say that, yes, there is too much methyl mercury but I have yet to see and yet to have presented to me a



definite case of congenital minamata poisoning. I would say that the greater majority of the infants have blood levels that are under the World Health Organization stipulated limits of 20 ppb. There are two cases that I can recall and these occurred perhaps three years ago where one level was 60 ppb, the other 90 ppb. in a newborn child. These children are now four years of age and are developing neurologically along normal lines as far as we can assess at this stage. You must realize the difficulty in doing intelligent quotient assessments of infants and children and it's only with the progression of time that we will know for sure whether there was any damage there or not.

There is a definite risk to the infant though because this infant is trapped within the mother's circulation and the methyl mercury is carried to the infant and it's trapped behind that placenta and therefore the accumulation can occur with that infant, but it's been our experience and this is borne out by Dr. Clarkson's publications on the poisoning in a rat that the factor - the infant's blood level is usually 10 to 20% higher than the mother but not usually much greater than that. The poisonings can occur through that mode if the level in the mother is high enough so that the mother can be asymptomatic and the child can have symptoms, and the mother can transfer the poisoning to her infant through breast milk as well. Rev. Fulmer made that comment, but that's not been the case here in Canada, there is yet still to be a case of congenital minamata disease poisoning presented.

There are adult signs and symptoms as well and these involve the central nervous system and the medical staff and medical people are aware of this but one again has





some unique problems in this area that we have to take into consideration before one can say that, yes, this Native guide has methyl mercury poisoning on the basis of a sensory disturbance in his peripheral nervous system that have to be taken into consideration first.

10 Now these factors are a high prevalence of tuberculosis on our reserves and in Canada the TB treatment is INH, is the drug; this causes a peripheral neuropathy. There are a great many Indians on our reserves unfortunately that are on this medication; this can be an influencing factor as to the nervous system manifestations. Alcohol in excess can cause peripheral nerve disturbances. Again  
20 another problem that we have to take into consideration. The other problem with the congenital problem is that there is a syndrome called congenital fetal alcohol syndrome on the basis of a heavy consuming mother the child will be born with certain central nervous system disturbances.

30 All of these factors have to be taken into consideration in our own local area here. I think that some of the positive steps that should be taken would be to mount an epidemiological survey and take all these factors into consideration; to do it in a statistically significant manner with a biochemical back-up, and unlike Mr. Troyer, I don't think it's too late to do this yet. He made that comment that he felt that that wasn't indicated at this point. Not eating  
40 the fish and finding alternate sources for protein for the Native people; I think, yes, that has to be done and has been done. I feel that the fishing for fun should persist, I don't really feel that people should be consuming the fish because it does have consistently persistent high levels of methyl mercury.



Other problems that were alluded to by Mr. Troyer were the fact of the unexplained deaths that occurred in this area and pathological specimens being referred to Toronto for examination, both biochemical and histological examination and he stated that Dr. Stephenson denied that there was an actual case of methyl mercury poisoning and he seemed to leave the impression, and other journalists left the impression that the Government is trying to cover something up. Well, in my communication with Dr. Smith, Dr. Jan Mueller, who is an internist with the government studying this problem and the other pathologist as well as Dr. Smith that's been studying this case is that there is no greater incidence of elevated levels of methyl mercury in these pathological specimens as opposed to a similar group of 28 individuals' autopsies taken from a large urban centre; that levels in the brain of the autopsy cases are the same as the levels in a large urban centre. This is again through personal correspondence with Dr. Mueller and I'm sure once Dr. Smith releases that report that information will be in that report, that statement will be in there and as I say I just wish to make those comments and to make the people here aware and yourself aware that the medical staff here is studying the problem. I still feel the potential threat is there but I as yet am not prepared to acknowledge that there is definite poisoning.

Thank you for your time.

MR. LASKIN: Thanks, Dr. Russell.

I would now like to call on the presentation of Bearskin Airways which is again not on the schedule, Mr. Karl Friesen, who I promised I would get on sometime reasonably early this evening. I'm afraid I haven't quite kept my promise



to you; she may get back tonight. For the benefit of the Reporter could you spell your last name.

A. F-R-I-E-S-E-N.

KARL FRIESEN

10 Well, I hope you will find my report something like a girl's skirt - long enough to cover the subject but short enough to be interesting.

20 Recently a lot of rather derogatory things have been said about aviation safety in the north. I speak as a chief pilot for Bearskin Air and as a bush pilot presently actively flying in the area. We have had our incidents, our accidents but I would like to inform the public and the Royal Commission about some of the operating conditions we operate up in northern Ontario in order to provide a year-round, dependable air service to the people of the north.

30 Five years ago when I first went up to Big Trout Lake, that's 276 miles north of Sioux Lookout. When I was first checked out on one of these bush planes, ski planes, I was checked out by the chief pilot at that time, Mr. Henri Boulanger, and the ice was very rough, very hard, and when he landed that plane and he was a bush pilot of 8,000 hours of experience, when he landed that plane on that ice I thought  
40 to myself this isn't a landing, it's a controlled crash.

Now, these bush planes, they go through this treatment every day; the ice is extremely rough, but sometimes I wonder what the reaction of the public - people down south they don't know about these, what do they think when they hear of another accident up in northern Ontario; another one of those reckless bush pilots. Sometimes I wonder if this



is too often their reaction.

10 A bush pilot meets all kinds of challenging conditions, he goes up there and has to deal with rough ice, whiteouts, big waves in summer which can really give a beating to a plane landing on it at 80 miles an hour; shallow lakes with rocks; poor docks at some villages that damage expensive floats; poor weather, no air radio to tell them what the weather is like up ahead; muddy runways; heavy cross winds because there is only one runway. There hasn't been a whole lot of complaints from the bush pilots, the fellow bush pilots I know until recently when the M.O.T. I think possibly goaded by public opinion has started really  
20 cracking down on northern operators without, I think, sometimes very much consideration to the conditions that we operate under.

30 If you look at a radio navigation map of northern Ontario you will see a big black hole in northern Ontario. You'll see all kinds of VOR's, ADFC's are navigational aids, fancy paved runways, lights, radar service, weather services in southern Ontario; up in northern Manitoba you'll see runways at small villages with lights, small air radio stations, air to ground radio contact but in northern Ontario this is not the case. You have one or two beacons and this is virtually all we have.

40 As M.T.C. has built more runways in northern Ontario, the northern Ontario operators have more than kept pace by going from Beech 18's and Norseman's to Aztec's, Twin Otters, Navajo's and more sophisticated, safer aircraft. But the powers that be have lagged far behind in providing more navigational aids, air radio stations, in order to provide all weather, dependable air travel in the north.





I have lived in the north in Big Trout Lake for five years and I can remember when we had no long distance phone; I can remember when the nurses would phone us up and say: "Look we've got a lady, she's in labour, we've got to get her down to the hospital, there's complications, we don't really want to do it here". Although those nurses up there have done it many times. I've had to tell them at times, "I'm sorry, I can't go, there's freezing rain, it's below the capabilities of our aircraft". Now we have the aircraft, we have twin engine aircraft, not just Bearskin, other operators also; with instruments and de-ice equipment, but sometimes we still have to say "I'm sorry, we can't go, it's below the capabilities of the nav aids available. Or sometimes we have to say "Gee I'd like to go but I'll bet I'll get violated for flying out of this air strip or into another air strips with no lights". Well, how come these air strips don't have lights?

Now the bush pilots I know have learned to cope with these conditions. They've have learned to cope with air strips with no lights, with nav aids that are few and far between. There are bush pilots in the north who can fly a ski plane well after dark, fly it in poor weather to another village in the middle of a black no where without the aid of nav aids, land safely, pick up a sick person or expecting mother and take them to medical aid. They do this all in a day's work and have been doing so for years. Many a northern Indian person owes his or her life to some northern "drunk bush pilot" as the newspapers sometimes have it, who could do such a trip. These pilots are not reckless daredevils but skilled aviators, who have special training and experience have learned how to cope with the conditions in the north.



10 Maintenance is extremely important to the safe operations of aircraft, especially when those aircraft are operating under rough conditions. But good maintenance is hard to do especially in winter when engineers must work in 30 below weather, 12 hours a day. It is hard to find men hardy enough to do such a job. Building a hangar is the natural solution but the red tape involved in getting airport land sometimes can take years. The cost of aircraft parts is high and availability quite often is not very good. Rebuilt aircraft engines are very expensive and sometimes not of the quality expected. Take for example the DC-3 engine which costs \$17,000 to overhaul, and yet quite often will "blow a jug" with only 100 or 200 hours on the engine. This main-  
20 tenance which must not be compromised costs the airline dearly. Yet the Northern Ontario Air Services are keeping their airplanes in the air year round providing a necessary and valuable service without government help or government subsidy. This is free enterprise supplying a service to our area and tax dollars to our country's coffers.

30 I would like to dispel a myth I've heard recently about aircraft insurance. Aircraft insurance is expensive and when an operator has a mishap usually the insurance claim takes a long time to be settled. The aircraft is sent to "the cheapest and not necessarily the best shop for repair", the down time costs the operator money and  
40 public relations. If there is any loop hole at all, the insurance company will not pay the claim. On top of all this quite often after such an accident your premiums will get raised. So the myth that operators willingly and cold heartedly allow an aircraft to be operated dangerously, in hopes of writing that aircraft off and in collecting insurance is definitely and completely unfounded.



Yes, there is room for improvement in the quality of air service available in northern Ontario, and this improvement will be speeded up when the powers that be install more nav aids, improve our muddy runways and cut down on the excessive red tape and paper work and get down to the heart of the matter of aircraft safety.

Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Why is there a deficiency of adequate navigational aids in northern Ontario as compared to the north of other provinces? Is there any reason for that?

MR. FRIESEN: I don't know how the government agencies work; I'm quite surprised if you can go - take for example Shamattawa, Manitoba, it's a small village, the size of - well, I'd say it's smaller than Big Trout Lake but it's had and has had for years, a good strip capable of handling Argosies aircraft larger than DC-3; they've had lights for years, they have a man on the ground you can talk to and he give you an current altimeter setting and say, yes, the weather is such and such, and this is a real advantage to the aircraft coming in and why northern Ontario doesn't have it I'm just really - I'm not sure at all.

THE COMMISSIONER: You have no obvious explanation for that?

MR. FRIESEN: Well, I've heard that money is a problem but I don't see where Ontario has got a whole lot less money than Manitoba.

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Mr. Friesen. A copy of your brief will be filed as Exhibit 262.





---EXHIBIT NO.262:

Submission of Bearskin Lake  
Air Service Ltd.

MR. LASKIN: We're going to take the printed  
schedule a little bit out of order now to accommodate every-  
one and I would now ask the presentation of the Kenora  
Women's Coalition, which I believe will be made by Valerie  
Kellberg and Rosalyn Copenace.

VALERIE KELLBERG and  
ROSALYN COPENACE

Mr. Justice Hartt, ladies and gentlemen.  
Thank you very kindly for changing the schedule, I apologize  
to the people who were ahead of us on the schedule. I also  
apologize on behalf of everyone present I think to the people  
who had to leave early due to having baby-sitting services,  
women who had to go to work tomorrow, who had been waiting  
to hear the presentation. I gather they will be able to  
hear it on Cable-Vision in the future so it may be alright.

I would like to introduce myself, my name is  
Valerie Kellberg, and Rosalyn Copenace, and we are members  
of the Kenora Women's Coalition.

"Women, what have they got to say to a  
Commission on Northern Environment?" That  
seemed to be the standard question when people  
learned that the Kenora Women's Coalition  
intended to present its views to the Hartt  
Commission. Actually, it's a question that  
succinctly states our concerns. Let us rephrase  
it: What do women have to say about the  
communities in which they live? Well, up until



"now, not much!

"Traditionally economic development in northern single industry and resource based communities has not included the experience, knowledge, concerns and interests of women. This has resulted in male-oriented communities at all levels, economically, socially and politically. The needs of women and children have been given only marginal recognition.

"We acknowledge, of course, that the experience, knowledge, interests and concerns of women vary considerably, but we all share a common desire to care for our families and to obtain some degree of personal fulfillment by utilizing our individual skills in the community.

"Because our experience, knowledge, interests and concerns vary, so do our perceptions and our expectations. Basically, there are two kinds of people in the North. Those who are born here and those who move here.

"Those of us born here are accustomed to the conditions - we value our environment, our independence, self-reliance and pace of life while recognizing mutual dependency in times of emergency. To newcomers the barsh and brutal weather conditions can be debilitating; inadequate housing or crowded trailer parks demoralizing; the absence of medical services close at hand frightening; and recreational and educational facilities, vir-



10 "tually non-existant for women, depressing. Soon cabin fever, confusion about the so-called frontier mentality, isolation and loneliness replace the romantic expectations of 'living up north.' Those of us born here have perhaps fewer illusions - we understand that we either do something or we don't. We have never really questioned the vast distances which separate us from not only services, entertainment, etc., but also from each other. We recognize, however, that as the North develops and changes that our expectations will also change.

20 "The Kenora Women's Coalition want to be part of that change as it occurs. Women want to be equal participants in all phases of the development process. We must become involved in the planning, governing and evaluating of the social, political and economic implications inherent in the develop-  
30 ment of the North. In order for us to participate effectively we need a mechanism by which we can attain a position of economic awareness and confidence in our abilities.

40 "There are some very real barriers to women's involvement especially in the areas of transportation and communications, education and research.

"Understanding that the climatic and geographical conditions of the North severely interfere with communications and transportation



10 "in and between northern communities; and that women's economic and work status is frequently such that our lives remain centred around our homes and our families, we feel that women require the establishment of effective communication and transportation networks to allow for information sharing and travel among women in isolated communities. This will increase our opportunities for meeting and sharing concerns and will encourage the development of our political, communication and organizational skills.

20 "In the area of education and research, we Northerners, especially women, require the development of our skills in very specific areas, such as research tools and techniques, data collection, acquisition of technical information and planning, in order to retain or obtain control of our communities. By developing these  
30 skills, we can utilize our experience to temper the nature and size of development so that it will be in keeping with our values and our hopes for the future.

40 "The Kenora Women's Coalition recommends to the Hartt Commission that they appoint, as quickly as possible, two Northern Womens Resource Workers. We recommend strongly that one of the Workers be available to work specifically with the needs and concerns of native women, and, therefore, speak Ojibway fluently. We recommend that an office be established in the Northwest to actively





10 "promote the participation of women at all  
levels of decision-making. This office  
would serve as a central information station  
to gather and make available information and  
statistics which relate to or affect women  
of Northwestern Ontario, and be staffed by a  
receptionist. The Northern Womens Resource  
Workers would be available to visit all of  
the Northern communities within a defined  
area on a regular basis to assist women in a  
developmental way, to take a more assertive  
20 role in planning activity. The Womens  
Resource Workers would organize and assist  
women with regional workshops in such areas  
as leadership training, environmental impact  
of industrial development, town-site planning,  
health and social service planning, and more."

30 ROSALYN COPENACE

"A more detailed proposed job descrip-  
tion and budget are appended for your considera-  
tion. With the establishment of the Northern  
Womens Resource Centre, the mechanism will be in  
effect for women of the North to contribute  
effectively at the final hearings of the  
40 Commission. From our experiences we expect the  
following are among the concerns that women  
would like to address.

"(1) Innovative ways of recruiting, retrain-  
ing women in the labour force to ensure  
greater participation in both primary and



10 "secondary industry. This will include working to overcome attitudinal barriers, as well as investigating specific areas such as adequate day care facilities for children, training on the job opportunities, apprenticeship programs, suitable work environments and restrictions on transient labour.

20 "(2) Housing developments should be geared to family living and include such things as play areas for children, recreation facilities for adults, shopping areas and so on.

30 "(3) The need for adequate community and health services for the size and composition of a community with special consideration of the mental and physical well-being of residents of the area, with recognition of the unique physical health needs of women.

40 "We believe that there is a role for women to play in the development of their communities and that the role need not only be the traditional social development role. Our concerns parallel those expressed by women of the North West Territories in a brief presented to the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry that stated:

'Looking at development from a woman's point of view is vital. Women are concerned with the human element of development - about what it will do to their



" 'children, their homes, and their communities. Women are the ones who end up coping with the results and effects of development decisions usually made by men.'

10 "RECOMMENDATIONS

"With this in mind, we wish to make the following recommendations:

(1) That a womens' research and action centre be established immediately by the Commission in a central location in Northwestern Ontario, staffed by two Women's Resource Workers and one receptionist, who would perform the functions outlined earlier, in the body of the report.

20 (2) That the Commission should make provisions at their meetings for the reading of letters from people who find this form of expression more convenient or effective for their purposes. Further to this, that these letters become part of the public record of the hearings and available along with copies of oral presentations at a later date for public scrutiny.

30 (3) That the composition, frequency, and locations of the Commission's hearings be sensitive to the needs of women in northern communities; that this would necessarily entail the provision of child care services at future meetings within the three year time

40





"frame of the Commission.

(4) That the legal advisers to the Hartt Commission research and make public their recommendations to ensure the following:

(a) that a tendering system be created that will allow Northerners to have first option on all secondary development - roads, support services, franchises, etc.

(b) that legislation be developed that will protect the rights of Northerners to employment opportunities and discourage the tendency to rely on transient labour which has occurred in other large scale developments.

"The Kenora Women's Coalition wishes to endorse the Hartt Commission in its inquiry into the impact of development on the northern environment and on the human environment.

"We feel that the process which you are putting into place may be of unprecedented value for Northerners and encourage continuation of the Commission for its full three year term.

"We all share in the hope that this process will move us closer to a comprehensive rational plan for careful resource development in the future. Because the future very quickly becomes the present, we recommend that Justice Hartt be integrally involved in any review procedures or consultations around new major



10 "developments or presently proposed projects  
which arise during the life of the Inquiry.  
This, we feel, would be a step towards  
ensuring that any further industrial develop-  
ment of the North will be positive and  
consistent with a comprehensive plan for our  
future."

Thank you.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much for  
the excellent suggestions. As you know I will have to await  
the preliminary report before we can implement anything.  
However, I think they are, as I said, excellent suggestions  
and I assure you that I consider it most appropriate to hear  
from your organization.

VALERIE KELLBERG: Thank you.

MR. LASKIN: A copy of that brief will be  
Exhibit 263 in our records.

30 ---EXHIBIT NO.263:

Submission of the Kenora Women's  
Coalition.

MR. LASKIN: The next presentation is by the  
Kenora District Campowner's Association and will be made by  
Mr. Dick Motlong.

40 DICK MOTLONG

Good evening. My name is Dick Motlong and I'll  
be primarily speaking on behalf of the Kenora District Camp-  
owner's Association but as well as the Northern Ontario  
Tourist Outfitters Association. I'm a past president of both



organizations; I'm not a politician; I'm not a journalist and I'm not a civil servant so I'll try to make my remarks brief and comply with the Agenda.

10 "On behalf of the Kenora District  
Campowner's Association I would like to take  
this opportunity to thank you for the chance  
to appear before this Commission tonight.

20 "Tourism in general and the outfitting  
business in particular are the most maligned  
and least understood industries in the north.  
I think this fact was brought forth this after-  
noon in a previous submission by one group.  
Yet they are the second largest source of  
income in northwestern Ontario: The largest  
employer of native people, the largest employer  
of female help, the largest employer of student  
labour, and the largest employer of unskilled  
workers in the Kenora District. In this  
30 respect, I think the campowner could very well  
be compared with government -- often criticized,  
never understood, and very rarely complimented.

40 "The tourist outfitter or campowner in  
the Kenora District as well as across Northern  
Ontario could well be described in today's  
rhetoric as an endangered species because he is  
a front liner, a small businessman in the north  
in a free enterprise system which seems to be  
more and more these days going out of style with  
the advent of big government, big business, and  
big labour plus the ever present lean of society  
towards more welfare and big government handouts.



10 "Indeed even more so today than ever before as  
witnessed by these very hearings, selective  
'pressure groups' with massive government fund-  
ing - actually taxpayer dollars - presenting  
Madison Avenue and Hollywood-style presentations  
which to my way of thinking are not wanted and  
not needed. We do not wish nor do we want to  
live in yesterday's 'way of life'. So who  
really are we kidding and what is to be accom-  
plished? I would hope very little. The North  
has been called the last frontier for the  
individual and the small businessman. Let's  
20 not only protect the Northern Environment, but  
also the northern 'way of life'.

"How can Tourism as we know it today  
in the Kenora District, both above and below  
the 50th Parallel prosper and grow now and in  
the future? To answer these questions, I think  
we must first take a look at some of the major  
30 problems and areas of concern that face the  
outfitting industry in the north. In later  
presentations we will not only look at these  
problems in greater detail, but present more  
particular and detailed information.

40 "THE LENGTH OF OUR SEASON"

"In the tourist business we are limited  
to when we can open and when we must close our  
camps by physical factors, such as 'break-up' in  
the Spring and 'freeze-up' in the Fall. The  
farther north you go, the shorter the season.  
However, we are further shortened by legislative





10 "restrictions and some of these restrictions  
which we cannot control result in financial  
hardships both by the campowner, his employees  
and the suppliers of tourist-oriented goods  
and services in the North. The shortening of  
seasons is only one management tool for our  
fish and wildlife -- certainly the most  
economical for government, but also the most  
costly for the tourist industry in Northern  
Ontario. We suggest that alternatives should  
be explored. In the long run, the tourist  
industry, the Province, and the people of  
20 Ontario will benefit.

"TRANSPORTATION

30 "The majority of people who visit  
Northwestern Ontario come by private automobile.  
The cost of gasoline in this part of the  
Province is too high in comparison to southern  
Ontario, Manitoba or the United States. It is  
detrimental to tourism, causing resentment in  
the attitudes of the tourists who simply can-  
not understand why the price is so high. The  
distances travelled in the north are just as  
great for the tourist as they are for the resi-  
40 dent. We have room within the provincial tax  
structure to allow for a tax concession on gas  
prices in order to lower the price paid. This  
in itself would certainly have a positive effect  
on the tourist industry as well as the residents  
of northwestern Ontario.



"ADVERSE PUBLICITY

10 "In general the tourist industry  
across Northern Ontario, but in particularly  
Northwestern Ontario, has been victimized by  
negative public relations plus the lack of a  
constructive program to combat this adverse  
publicity. I am referring to mercury, forest  
fires, exchange rates, border crossing problems,  
gas prices, etc. These are bad enough by them-  
selves, but when you add political exploitation  
by politicians during elections, an over-reaction  
20 by some media, publicity campaigns by individuals  
and pressure groups: You can severely hurt and  
damage the overall tourist programs in the north.  
We have a lot to be proud of in Northwestern  
Ontario. Why can we not have some positive  
publicity for a change?

"COMMERCIAL VS. SPORTS FISHING

30 "Sports fishing is the primary tourist  
attraction in Northwestern Ontario, so it is  
vitally important that we maintain good sports  
fishing. However, this valuable resource is  
still being commercially fished. For example:  
There is a disparity on Lake of the Woods in  
40 that 50% of the annual harvest is taken by  
commercial fisherman and 50% by residents and  
tourist anglers. However, according to statis-  
tics: The tourist industry is providing 18 times  
more jobs (mostly native and local people), 64  
times more revenue and 95 times more tax  
revenue -- yet the resource is divided equally.



"We suggest that any lake with sport and commercial fishing pressure be carefully reviewed and when and where there is a conflict that sport fishing should take precedence over commercial fishing.

10      "ACCESS ROADS

20      "We have a unique attraction in North-western Ontario in the wilderness holiday at an outpost camp or a fly-in resort. The control and management of access roads is a top priority of our remote outfitters. It only takes one road to an outfitters base of operations, to eliminate his main attraction to his guests. A lake without a road to it is a non-renewable resource. A short term benefit to one industry can not take precedence over long range or long term benefits to another. With wise management and long range planning of the natural resources in the north industries and all the people of Northern Ontario will benefit, and I believe that's what it's all about -- people working together in harmony with the environment.

30      "At a recent Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Convention in Thunder Bay, the Premier of the Province of Ontario said, and I quote:

40      'As we look to the future, we realize more and more just how important a role the North will play in our ability to remain prosperous and competitive. But we have a selling job to do and part of that job begins right here at home.





"I look with great hope to the Hartt Commission."

He went on to say, 'that Ontario's future prosperity will depend very much on the success in the north.'

"Sir, the Kenora District Campowner's Association echos the Premier's statement as we look with great hope to this Commission, and we will continue to participate in the inquiries of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment in the weeks and months that follow.

Tourism to date has had a very low profile in the hearings: We hope that this will change in the near future.

"Tourism and the outfitting industry have been a mainstay in the economy of north-western Ontario. This was true in the past, it is true today, and as we look and plan for future of the North, we must increasingly look to tourism. For I believe in a positive tomorrow for the North if individuals, industry and government can work together in a spirit of cooperation and consultation rather than one of confrontation.

"Thank you for providing the Kenora District Campowner's Association this opportunity to speak this evening."

Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thanks very much, --

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Mr. Motlong. I would like to file a copy of your presentation in our record as



the next exhibit, 264.

---EXHIBIT NO.264:

Submission of the Kenora District  
Campowner's Association.

10 MR. LASKIN: Next ladies and gentlemen, we  
have the presentation of the Confederation College of Applied  
Arts and Technology out of Thunder Bay, and the presentation  
will be made by Mr. Richard Staples on behalf of the Board of  
Governors. I'm sorry Richard, to have kept you waiting so  
long.

20 RICHARD STAPLES

30 Mr. Justice Patrick Partt, Commission counsel,  
ladies and gentlemen: It is my honour to be here this  
evening with a student delegation from Confederation College.  
We're here more to take part in these informal hearings by  
declaring our future intent rather than to present a number  
of reports, although we are hopeful if the Commission does  
decide to continue its mandate and we certainly would hope  
that it would, that over the three-year course of your inquiry  
we will have a number of reports to present to this Commission.

40 The letter that I would like to read into the  
record, it has already been mailed to the Commission, is as  
follows: It is addressed to the Commission and it's from  
the Board of Governors of Confederation College.

"Mr. Justice Patrick Hartt,  
Royal Commission on the Northern Environment.

Dear Sir:

The Confederation College of Applied



10 "Arts and Technology wishes to inform the  
Royal Commission on the Northern Environment  
that the College staff and its student body  
represents a valid cross-section of the  
citizenry of Northwestern Ontario. This  
multi-cultural community of the College, we  
believe, is the type of audience that the  
Hartt Commission should seek out to facili-  
tate the achievement of its mandate.

20 The College's current enrollment  
of over 5,000 students, full-time day  
students or extension course, represents a  
significant cross-section from the 250,000  
citizens of Northwestern Ontario. We believe  
that the Hartt Commission urgently needs a  
fully representative 'input', particularly  
from the one age group that is most immediately  
and significantly affected by the forthcoming  
recommendations of your inquiry - the 18 to 30-  
30 year old citizens of Northern Ontario.

40 Communication and receiving 'input'  
with this representative type of audience and  
this particular generation, the forthcoming  
one, is our educational 'stock-in-trade'. In  
addition the College's staff and Board of  
Governors have many years of accumulated  
experience in finding educational solutions to  
the unique problems of Northwestern Ontario.

"We would invite your Commission to  
consult with that audience residing in the  
multi-cultural community of Confederation



"College to consider areas of dialogue that the Commission wishes to pursue in the achievement of its mandate."

With my signature for the Board of Governors, Confederation College.

10 With me tonight are two student representatives: Mr. Brian Larson and Mr. Danny Dumas, both of the Industrial Relations Club of Confederation College. They are here to represent the over 35 students enrolled in some of the courses at the College that I taught, who in the last semester developed a number of briefs and reports to the Commission, and within a week or so these reports will be  
20 tabled to the Commission in the form of a booklet or book produced by Confederation College Press.

I guess Royal Commissions are nothing new at this point to the students of Confederation College in the sense that we have had previous experience, and we are very optimistic with the progress which we hope to make with  
30 this particular Commission.

A year ago we were well received with the Royal Commission on Electric Power Planning and we presented; well, actually now we're involved in two debates with that particular Commission. On the 16th of February this year a student delegation from the College will be going to Toronto  
40 to take part in a Nuclear Power Debate: It seems to have particular relevance also to this Commission.

In addition, a research project entitled Watts from Vapors will be forthcoming within the next month and we will also submit that as a report to this Commission. It will have a formal presentation in Toronto on or about





10 May of this year when the Nuclear Power Debate is finished and it would seem to have particular relevance to this Commission's mandate, particularly as it deals with alternate methods of using natural resources and the other aspect is that it has real employment possibilities in terms of sustaining the people of Northwestern Ontario in regards to their energy requirements. And we'll make a formal - the research team of Watts from Vapors will make a formal submission of the report to this Commission.

20 What I'd like to do now with the permission of my two gentlemen here is to have an overview given by Mr. Dumas as to the number of submissions that were presented by the students at Confederation College. They presented a wide variety of interests and I believe our representative of the generation that they in their own right represent, so Danny I'll ask you to give the Commission an overview of the College submissions at this point.

30 DANNY DUMAS

Thank you, Richard.

40 On the subject of energy, nuclear energy particularly, we got some good comments by a gentleman by the name of Ken Ottman, and here I'm quoting.

"Some time should be spent on studying the feasibility for using the north as a site for nuclear power plants.

"At first impression it would seem advantageous but only through serious studies can we really decide on pros and cons."



You could include in the disadvantages, there are radiation hazards and radioactive wastes but since they would be away from any populated centres it would only encourage this idea.

10 Now on forestry by a gentleman by the name of Steve Uminaki.

Again we're back on the subject of conserving natural resources or putting them to the best use as possible.

20 Reforestation is fine but our rapid technology is forgetting that our resources are still somewhat limited and that trees can only grow so fast. It is understood that replantation should be at least on the ratio of four to one, meaning four trees for every one being cut. Complete examination of the industry should be done by the Commission.

30 And here's another comment on this same topic. And this gentleman here is saying that he believes that the Reed Pulp & Paper Company should not go ahead with the expansion because of the serious downfall in the paper market; it would eventually require the help of the government.

40 Now on tourist and wildlife. Again I'm quoting directly. "There should be more money spent on our highways and roads up here, up in the northwestern part of Ontario because they're really bad."

"There should be a licence fee charged to foreign fishermen and even to local fishermen with the exception of Native people" which is normal, natural. This would discourage people from wasting and it would also cut down on the fishing itself and give Nature time to replenish our lakes.



Well, to summarize what I was saying: we should have a close restriction on fishing activities.

There should be more camping grounds developed up here, like in the form of Wilderness Parks and State Parks.

Now on the subject of secondary industries. We should develop secondary industries that would be directly related and I quote and I underline directly related to our primary ones. For example, here in Kenora, you have the pulp and paper industry, therefore, it may be some kind of cardboard plant could be developed or set up to create the demands for the basic industry. This project would create employment and at the present time I think that's what we need more than anything else. In such a project there should be the input of Native people in the planning, controlling and actual operation of such industry to make it successful.

Here I've got a subject that was pretty popular in school and it's on aerial ambulance services. We had six - six of the briefs were presented to Mr. Staples and dealt with aerial ambulance with accompanying paramedic services.

Although there is presently an air ambulance service in Northern Ontario but it seems that generally speaking the public is unaware of it. The existing services should employ a paramedic group ready at all the time for any occurring emergencies. Many competent people including several Thunder Bay doctors are putting together a report that should be presented to the Commission in the near future.

Now, I'll pass you to Brian Larson.





BRIAN LARSON

10 I guess I'll be trying to sell the Commission on a relocation as Mr. Staples mentioned earlier with the letter from the Board of Governors that - I believe that north of 50 was set very unfairly leaving Thunder Bay out of it. I think Thunder Bay is very much a part of Northwestern Ontario. And every wheel must have a hub, it's vital to its operation. Likewise the Hartt Commission needs a hub to be effective. The natural centre of Northwestern Ontario is Thunder Bay.

20 The Commission is hearing submissions on many aspects of life in this part of the Province, it is important that as many citizens as possible present their views for consideration. Something should be done to ensure input from the average citizen. The average citizen in Northwestern Ontario is not likely to air his feelings at the formal Commission hearings which will come in the near future hopefully. In small one-industry communities a person is well aware of what side of the bread the butter is on. He is not about to get up and speak against the activities of the company he is employed by. Many citizens feel they do not have the education, the worldliness required to make a sensible presentation. They are not in the same league as the Ivy League businessman from Toronto or lawyers and company officials from large corporations. They may feel their opinions would not carry much weight.

40 Institutions that are available in Thunder Bay: Confederation College, Lakehead University, Lakehead Board of Education, Separate School Board and numerous multi-cultural organizations are institutions that cater to educational



needs of Northwestern Ontario. Students come from all communities in the area creating a true community of Northwestern Ontario. It seems logical that all of these should be in their turn focal points for this Commission.

Living away from their communities during the school terms students may not feel Big Brother Corporation is looking down on them. Indeed they feel a responsibility towards the areas they grew up in, pulling together they could accomplish a great deal in extracting the true wishes of the citizens.

Linking the various communities through the students would maintain a permanent link with the Commission during its three-year duration. These students could funnel their information through the institutions. In reverse, the Commission could maintain a connection with the whole population via the same link. These institutions and their represented student population could very well be the hub of the wheel that keeps the Hartt Commission rolling.

How to establish effective communications. The Commission cannot hope to maintain its connection with the people from Northwestern Ontario from Toronto. It would be very expensive to have the Commission possibly travelling through the area. The College has equipment to set up a mobile video centre, it could travel throughout the area allowing people to tape their presentations which could be flown to the Commission in Toronto. More people might take advantage of such a system. Seminars could be arranged at the College and other educational institutions in Thunder Bay on any aspect of concern to the Commission. Small groups tend to be more effective than large ones.

These institutions are available to create a



liaison between the Hartt Commission and communities in Northwestern Ontario. The students come from all areas of this part of the Province, they are natural carriers.

By means of a mobile video centre the Commission could get a lot of input from the average citizen. Thunder Bay could be a regional centre for the Hartt Commission in Northwestern Ontario for the next three years.

Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: There is no doubt that the College will be a great source of resource for us and no doubt we will be in touch with you.

BRIAN LARSON: That sounds good. Thanks very much.

At this time I would like to take the time to express our appreciation to the Commission for giving us time to air our views, even though it was so late. So, on behalf of the Board of Governors, the staff, students at Confederation College, thank you.

MR. LASKIN: Thank you very much, gentlemen. I would like to formally file that letter which you read into the record as part of our proceedings, Exhibit 265.

---EXHIBIT NO. 265:

Letter from Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

MR. LASKIN: Our next speaker, and he has certainly been waiting very patiently throughout the evening is Mr. Carl Stephens who is going to make two presentations, two brief ones: the first on behalf of the Canadian Paper-workers Union, Local 238, and the second on behalf of the



Kenora-Keewatin and District Labour Council. Mr. Stephens is president of both of those organizations. I apologize that we haven't gotten to you before now Mr. Stephens.

CARL STEPHENS

10 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

"A brief to the Hartt Commission from Local 238, Canadian Paperworkers Union, Lake of the Woods, Kenora.

20 "In the view of our membership the present paper mill in Kenora would be put in a very unacceptable position should some of the ideas on future development of this north be implemented.

"We feel the Ontario Government has been very lax at looking after our renewable resources.

30 "These resources belong to the people of Ontario and should be looked after and managed to allow us and future generations a clean environment and a decent job.

40 "A case in point is an out of province group called the Atikaki Coalition that is trying very hard to put a wilderness park in our area. It is common knowledge that the residents of this area do not want a park taking up our timber land. As it was originally planned it would have cut off 100,000 cords of wood annually to the Kenora mill.





10 "The management of the Kenora mill emphatically stated it would put the mill in the position of having to close down. Our sister mill at Fort Frances lost a large tract of timber to the Quetico Park although it was opposed by area residents, so we are afraid uncaring politicians of the south will allow this to happen again.

20 "It is no secret that the O & M would have liked some of the wood for future expansion. We feel the Reed proposal is entirely out of the question. We feel it is too large scale and would do irreparable damage to the ecology of the north. It would also endanger a very large native population's habitat, livelihood and economic base. The size and methods planned for Reed area would devastate the land, disrupt self-sustaining native villages and put more pollution into an already badly polluted river system. It also threatens the longevity of the present pulp and paper mill centres already here: Dryden, Kenora, and to a lesser degree, Thunder Bay.

30  
40 "We are not against development of the north, however, we feel we must not have massive large scale development that does not consider the people in the area concerned nor their cultures or life-styles.

"We must also urge your Commission to strongly recommend that any natural resource industry existing or planned must also show



"their appreciation of the use of our resources by insuring that in event of final closure of any industry, be it mines or paper mills, that they be required to bear a full financial burden for relocation of workers.

10 "Secondly, if a town site is left inhabited that they also bear

the municipal costs and education costs until a new industry locates there or until the people that worked there leave.

20 "Many ills facing the pulp and paper industry today can only be traced back to greed. From 1970 to 1975 were the most profitable years in the history of the industry. Profits escalated, in some cases doubled and quadrupled in that span. Why wasn't some of the profits kept in those mill towns to modernize and update machinery? We feel that companies like Great Lakes in Thunder Bay, the O & M in Kenora and Fort Frances and Kimberly-Clark in Marathon and Terrace Bay have done just that. What did the Canadian company like Abitibi do at Smooth Rock, Iroquois Falls and Thunder Bay? Not very much we think.

40 "We also recommend that any industry that upon investigation is closing down for refusing to comply with pollution standards or for allowing their plants to fall behind in production for lack of modernizing their equipment, that the Ontario Government take



"them over and secondly, refuse them the right to open up again in other parts of the country."

In addition to our original brief we would like to ask why such a proposal as the Reed Corporation proposes is a pulp mill when, in fact, we have pulp and paper mills closings all over Canada. I site Beaverwoods operation in southern Ontario; Conny Bathurst in Three Rivers, Quebec; Abitibi at Thunder Bay and Miramichi in New Brunswick, to name a few.

Our Union has 55,000 people deeply committed to the pulp and paper industry and we believe we have a larger role to play and a more positive contribution to make than evidenced by the limited though important role of annual wage vacation - wage negotiations, excuse me. We feel strongly that any recommendations made by this Commission on northern environment be also implemented on development north of the 49th parallel as well.

Thank you.

"Kenora-Keewatin and District Labour Council.

"The Kenora-Keewatin District Labour Council feels it is obligated to make a presentation to this Royal Commission on the northern environment because we feel as Ontario residents, lands in northern Ontario are as much our heritage as it is those who live there.

"Our labour council presently represents 11 labour unions in this area. Our





10 membership is over 2,000 people. Our primary industry is a newsprint mill owned and operated by the Boise Cascade Corporation. The average employment for this mill and woodlands operations as of 1976 was 1,587 people. Statistics show that for each of these jobs 1.7 more jobs are created in the area. The amount of wood needed to operate this mill is 246,000 cords per year. Presently in Ontario there are 26 mills in operation. In 1980 it is anticipated that 9 Million cunits of wood will be harvested in Ontario, each year. There is a distinct possibility for a shortage of wood in 1980's.

20 "The government has proposed to grant a licence to Reed Corporation for 19,000 square miles of timber limits; the last remaining stand of first growth timber in Ontario. We do not think the granting of this amount of timber to one single company makes any sense at all. We believe the past performance of Reed Paper in our area leaves much to be desired. We do not think the environment will withstand the mammoth mechanized development this company proposes. The already polluted English-Wabigoon system cannot be allowed to carry the effluent from any new pulp mill.

40 "We are not against development of the north, but we do advocate a controlled, planned development of this very fragile land. We do not want large companies going into these lands taking large profits for 20 years or less, and



10 "then when all is devastated, leaving with their  
profits and leaving behind the people who have  
sunk half their lives in the area, with nothing.  
Glowing examples of this are Inco's curtailment  
of operations in Sudbury, Umex pullout at Pickle  
Lake, and closure of Madson Mines in Red Lake.  
Planning must be based on equitable, social and  
economic objectives. We must develop in a way  
that strengthens and enhances the economy of the  
north. When the north is to have development we  
must insist that a fully developed industry  
results. Secondary industries should also be  
20 developed. For example: manufacturing of furniture,  
hockey sticks, toboggans, sleighs, skis and wooden  
toys. All these items could be made from hard-  
woods. We must insist that industry already there  
must be protected, such as, tourism, trapping,  
wild rice harvesting and others. Last year alone  
in that area over half a million dollars worth of  
30 fur came out.

"We believe that no new mills should be  
built in the Province of Ontario until a complete  
inventory of all Crown timber is taken. We  
believe that any company closing down, plants or  
mines in one-industry towns should be required to  
40 relocate workers, and also maintain payment of  
municipal taxes until a new industry locates in  
the area.

"We request the Commission to tour the  
reserves of Grassy Narrows and Whitedog and see  
firsthand what what uncontrolled development can  
do to a people.



"We believe future development in the iron industry should be stopped unless the companies agree to build steel mills in mine site areas.

"We believe the Ontario government give serious thought as to implementing reforestation to the Scandinavian standards.

"In conclusion, we must insist that this and future governments work to create wealth for the people of Ontario."

Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thanks very much, Mr. Stephens.

MR. LASKIN: Thank you, Mr. Stephens. I would like to file copies of each of your briefs as Exhibits 266 and 267 in our record.

---EXHIBIT NO.266: Submission of Canadian Paperworkers Union, Local 238.

---EXHIBIT NO.267: Submission of Kenora-Keewatin and District Labour Council.

MR. LASKIN: Ladies and gentlemen, it's been a long day and unless I'm mistaken I don't believe there's anyone else who has asked to speak this evening. There is, I am mistaken.

Mr. Harvey. I'm sorry we haven't gotten to you til now. You're a patient man. He's used to it.

It's Mr. Stuart Harvey.



REV. STUART HARVEY

When I first came here I couldn't figure out why you kept standing up and going over to shake hands but now I know. If I had sat there and listened to 268 briefs I'd be standing up to go shake hands too.

My name is Rev. Stuart Harvey; I'm currently the Minister of the United Church in Keewatin, and was formerly the Minister in Sandy Lake, Ontario, where you visited recently.

"My feelings about the conduct of your inquiry over the next three years, as they pertain to northern development in general, are adequately expressed in the joint brief from the Kenora-Keewatin Ministerial Association today. There are, however, several aspects of development north of 50, of which I have become aware in my four years in Sandy Lake, and two years in the Kenora area, which would be inappropriate to include in the ministerial brief, and I will confine myself to a general outline of these issues, and will be quite willing to amplify on them in the ensuing months if that would be helpful.

"The areas I wish to comment on are:

1. Need for secondary industry
2. Local control of service industry
3. Increase of airline safety in the north.
4. A deliberate exchange of information between two cultures.





10 "First of all, the need for secondary industry: During the four years I worked in Sandy Lake, I had the privilege of being involved in the weddings of many of the young couples of that village and in Deer Lake. One of the sad aspects of that part of my work was seeing the  
20 ensuing tension in the homes. Almost all the young people in Sandy were unable to obtain work in the village even though they wanted it. Many people would line up to do a few available odd jobs for Indian Affairs, one or two would get a job and the rest would go home. Some got temporary work through house construction, but that too ended after a short season. What struck me was how domestic tensions eased when a man was able to get work, and rose again over the winter months as the couple lived in their small cabin with nothing much else to do except look at the  
30 walls. We need secondary industry using labour-intensive intermediate technology. This industry is, of course, needed in the more populated areas like Kenora, but the need for it does not diminish farther back in the bush, it increases.

40 "In the years I was in Sandy, I noticed one healing activity for these couples, which many times restored balance and wholeness to their lives: trapping, hunting and fishing. Many times I have seen such couples go off with their parents and extended families into the bush for a month or six weeks, returning to the community relaxed and refreshed. I feel that this has a direct bearing on the style and type of development north of 50.



"If we move into northern Ontario with capital intensive development, based on resource exploitation, destroying, or irreparably damaging the environment in the process, we will do little to help an already deteriorating situation. Capital intensive, resource-based industry offers little in the way of economic stability as the history of one-industry towns well attest. Environment destroying activities, poorly controlled, will destroy one of the few therapeutic activities left to northern residents. If we judge the value of traplines (as they are presently used) solely in economic terms, and we fail to appreciate their value in human terms. The residents of Sandy Lake themselves, are in a much better position to share their understanding of the land and the therapeutic value of life as a part of it, but I wish only to comment on this fact, and encourage you, Mr. Justice Hartt, to bear this in mind over the coming months. There is much health in the area north of 50, and I hope your recommendations to our government will reflect the recognition of this by encouraging this health and building with it in the process of development. History abounds with examples of development in Canada which did not choose to work cooperatively with local people, and remain sensitive to their needs and sources of strength. One of the worst is the area in which I now reside. God forbid that we, in



10 "the name of modern development, repeat the mistakes of our forefathers as we move north. We're all too much aware of the high social cost of trying to assist a people to get up, dust themselves off, and get moving again in the Kenora area, to start the whole sordid process in another area.

20 "Secondly, local control of service industry: It goes without saying that the bulk of the population in the area north of 50 are Indian. It is also clear that the bulk of the service industry in this area is not in the control of the people who use it. I understand that Ontario already has legis-  
30 lation restricting the development of new town sites when other towns already exist within 60 miles of resource development, in order to consolidate urban development and support existing businesses. At present service industry in the area is primarily owned and operated by non-residents. It appears that either the transfer of economic control of service industry, or at least, the deliberate encouragement of competitive  
40 Indian-controlled service industry, before any boom of industrial development, would keep needed revenue in this northern area rather than funneling it south into the pockets of non-residents.

"So often we in the dominant society,





10 "with centuries of popular awareness about the monetary system, apply the same expectations to residents of Indian communities as we apply to ourselves, forgetting that the monetary system has been a part of their historical experience for less than 75 years. With a popular understanding of economic factors more or less where the traders left it, I am amazed that the community has developed what it has.

20 "There has been of course, some good work done by the economic advisors in Indian Affairs, there has been a great deal of adult education within local communities, and the advent of radio and TV will make considerable difference to the general level of economic awareness, but given our present time frame, education for local control of service industry must be accelerated if the north is to benefit from the spin-off of development.

30 "We, as the dominant society, haven't come near doing our share in supporting, encouraging, and facilitating the development of local control of service industry. All too often, local initiatives that do emerge, are met with a barrage of red tape and bureaucracy which serves only to discourage those trying to gain control of their own lives. How are people to develop viable economic alternatives to the Hudson Bay Company, free traders, and outside airline companies if they constantly

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10 "run into highly complex restrictive banking practice, and protective regulations such as those governing the development of new airlines in an area already served by an outside airline. In this particular example, development is hampered by outdated regulations put into effect to cope with the surplus of pilots and aircraft after the war. Conditions have changed, and laws which at one time helped northerners by ensuring the existence of air service at all in an area of limited commerce, are now being used needlessly to inhibit local involvement in this service industry. I hope in your work you will be alert to such roadblocks to local development with a view to their removal.

30 "3. Increase of airline safety in the north: Although airline safety and regulation is a Federal matter, and this is a Provincial inquiry, I feel that this Commission must address itself to the safety of both present residents and families coming in to work here in the future. Recent reports from Toronto and Ottawa are timely in this matter. It is now almost three years since Tomahawk Airways' plane, CF-FXH, crashed killing the pilot and one passenger, and almost three years since the inquest recommended a full inquiry into airline safety in the north. Almost three years since many of us finally decided that we had had enough of

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"unsafe airline practice, and did our best to press for an inquiry. What did we get? Our own MP, John Reid, told me, on being questioned as to why there had been no action on the Coroner's Jury recommendation for an inquiry, 'Oh, I was informed that it was just a local attempt to "get Tomahawk" so we just ignored it'. Three years since I received a letter from the Department of Transportation and Communications in Ottawa that they had hired and trained inspectors for the area, and implying that there would be no more problem. And in those three years, there has been a trail of blood from one inquest to another. And now, finally, this latest confidential report following the extended trip of two investigators substantiating the charges of unsafe practice. As a pilot, I am aware that this sort of practice is unnecessary. Training and equipment exists now and are in common usage which would make airline safety in this area as safe as it is in other parts of our country, if not more so. If we as a province endorse further development in this part of the province without forcing the Federal government to bring under control the aspects of life here which fall under its jurisdiction, and for which they already have legislation, then we are simply signing the death warrant for many of our future residents. A great service could be done by this Commission



"for this area if it encourages the federal government to conduct a parallel inquiry into air safety in this region - in a region in which you, yourself, Mr. Hartt, will be travelling extensively by air over the next three years.

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"4.       The deliberate exchange of information between two cultures: The final area I would like to comment on is the need for this inquiry to promote the deliberate exchange of information between our dominant culture and that of the Indian people resident in most of the land in question. The need for this is mutual. This information exchange is already being promoted by your very presence in this part of the province. More people are reading material about our future and pondering the basic issues than has ever been the case before. However, there are two areas in which I feel this sharing is not going on, and must, if mutual cooperation is to take place between what you have alluded to as polarized groups. First, there must be a growing awareness on the part of the dominant culture that the Indian culture, which is to a great extent still intact north of 50, has a great many things to offer us which we ourselves are quite openly seeking answers for: For example, a healthier approach to the handling of grief and death, a more personal approach to the delivery of health care, a more sane view of man's relationship to his

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"environment, and a more appropriate way of relating to past offenders against society, to name only a few that I have noticed. Until the dominant society comes to appreciate the gifts that Indian society has to offer us, we will continue to treat the destruction of their life-style in this part of Ontario lightly, giving no thought to the treasures we are losing.

"It seems to me that Indian culture is much more people-oriented than object-oriented, and our culture is just the reverse. A study of our languages reflects this basic difference in emphasis, but it is one of emphasis. We are good at the management of physical things, and in the creation of tools to assist us in our life. When we are at our best, and not mindlessly destroying the world around us, we do create some marvelous inventions which enrich our life together. I would encourage this inquiry to become watchful for ways by which our two cultures can come to know more about each other, and harvest the rich treasures each has to offer the other. I feel that this is particularly important as it is this Commission which is to make recommendations to us all which might either jeopardize such communication or enhance it. The deliberate development of media productions within Indian communities is an obvious place to begin.



10 "I must add, however, that we too must  
share. We have given Indian people the vote,  
and yet, having lived in Sandy Lake through  
several elections I am appalled at how little  
attempt has been made to help them understand  
what it is all about. We have put great effort  
into assisting newly arrived immigrants to  
understand our system and how it operates to  
facilitate their involvement, but very little  
effort - very little into helping our northern  
neighbours with the same thing. When I tried  
20 to pursue this matter with the Federal govern-  
ment, I got the merry run-around, ending with  
'Dear sir, it is safely in the hands of Indian  
Affairs, and they are doing a fine job of it'.  
which I already knew to be inaccurate. Once  
again, I hope that this Commission in its  
travels keeps an eye open for ways in which we  
can be more conscious about our part in this  
30 task of mutual communication.

40 "In closing, I would like to submit  
a photograph, which I hope you keep before you  
when you finally come to writing your recommen-  
dations as to how we should approach develop-  
ment in this part of Ontario. I give it because  
I know that you already aware of the value of  
technology and industrial development: that is  
part of our heritage, it is part of our very  
being. I give it because it speaks of another  
dimension of life which we are all seeking, to  
balance the harmful effects of technology and



"development run rampant.

"Let me point out a few aspects of the photo. It was taken a few days before leaving Sandy Lake. Each year, members of the community gather in a clearing in the woods well up the Stain River. They re-enact the biblical story of Christ changing 5 loaves and 2 fish into ample resources for all. The incident which this picnic commemorates has a message for us whichever interpretation of the story we prefer: that of a miraculous growth of food supply, or that of a transformation of a selfish crowd into an unselfish crowd -- no less a miracle. A healing service followed. The men being prayed for are leaders. Those praying for them are the men, women and children of the community. Health is effected through prayer and the touch of loved ones. At the right edge of the picture can be seen the corner of an amplifier and an electric guitar, powered by an unseen generator humming behind a bush. To me the picture speaks of what I hear the people in Treaty 9 area saying. They are not against technology or development, and they use it themselves to enrich their lives. But they refuse to say that technology is everything, or that anything can be more important than the touch of life on life. They, like so many of us in the dominant society, are calling out for a balance within our life, especially when we





"see the destruction which accompanies uncontrolled, short-sighted growth.

"I hope this picture serves to remind you of the people and something of the rich society in this section of Ontario that your words will affect. I hope it brings to mind many other faces you will meet over the next three years, and of the riches you will no doubt gain from them as you listen in this unique way. I hope it provides a catalyst which draws together enough of the quiet side of the story, to balance our very vocal, articulate demands for resources, and enables you to bring recommendations to us all for life, abundant life."

MR. LASKIN: Thank you very much, Stuart. A copy of your brief will be Exhibit 268 and the picture 269. I didn't intend to forget you.

---EXHIBIT NO.268: Submission of Rev. Stuart Harvey, Minister of St. Andrew's United Church, Keewatin.

---EXHIBIT NO.269: Enlarged photograph.

MR. LASKIN: Perhaps I better take the precaution of asking whether there is anyone else who wishes to speak this evening.

If there isn't I have two very brief announcements: The first one is as you know tomorrow the Commission will be in Whitedog: that meeting will begin at one o'clock in the afternoon, and on Thursday we will be back again in



Kenora. That meeting was scheduled to begin at 9:30 in the morning. We still have a large number of people I know who want to speak and to give us a little extra time we're going to begin at nine o'clock, one half hour earlier, so the meeting in Kenora on Thursday will begin at nine o'clock.

Thank you all for coming out and staying so late this evening.

---Adjournment.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



(Thomas F. Conlin),  
Official Reporter.













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